



THE COUNTY LINE **ROADRUNNER**

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



Volume XLIX

April 2019

Number 4

Ramblings from the VP...

Kraig, KA2LHO

April brings summer weather to the south and hopefully a break from the brutal winter in the north. Climate wise it has been a challenge for many areas of the country and most mobiles could use a break. My wife and I will be headed out the panhandle of Florida for a couple of days in April to visit one of our favorite small cities there, Apalachicola. We will be running counties and WWFF-KFF parks on this trip so watch for announcements and spots.

If you are using MoSpot (Counties) and/or PARKSpot (Parks and Counties) it may be frustrating to remember the link. You can make this or any web-based app look and feel like an app on your phone or tablet. Quick steps to make this happen on IOS devices (iphone, ipads, etc.) can be found here: <https://lifelhacker.com/add-web-site-bookmarks-to-your-iphones-homescreen-5809338>

If you are using an Android device there are instructions for this process here: <https://www.wikihow.com/Set-a-Bookmark-Shortcut-in-Your-Home-Screen-on-Android>



This will make it easy for you to use MoSpot, PARKSpot or any other web based application with just a touch on your screen. Have a wonderful April and when you are mobile, please be safe out there!!!

Contents

A View From the Past	20
Awards	8
County Alerts	5
Dateline CW	2
ELECTION INFORMATION	9
Events	21
Failed (somewhat) Idaho mobile trip	17
Ramblings from the VP...	1
The Apple Watch:	6
Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)	19
Unofficial Minutes	18

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

Both events use mobile transportation, but county hunting and oyster hunting are different activities.

PLEASE NOTE: County Hunting Fixed & Mobile is banned....April Fool!

I just arrived at the radio shack to finalize my mobile routes in the Georgia QSO party the weekend of April 13 & 14th and the Florida QSO party the weekend of April 29 & 30th. I could sure enjoy a latte. The first day of the Georgia QSO party I plan to run the counties: Thomas, Brooks, Lowndes, Echols, Chariton, Brantley, Wayne, Long, Liberty, Tattnall, Appling, Bacon, Coffee, I need a latte, Atkinson, Berrien Tift, Colquitt and Thomas. I Get up and go to the refrigerator and get a bottle of water, I open the bottle and take a sip and sit at the computer.

The next day in the GQP I plan to run the counties: Decatur, Miller, Early, Clay, Randolph, Quitman, Stewart, Webster, Marion, Talbot, Taylor, Schley, Sumter, Lee, Dougherty, Mitchell and Grady. I take a gulp of water. I finally locate the Florida QSO party file and load it.

The first day of the Florida QSO party I plan to run the counties: Jefferson, Taylor, Lafayette, Dixie, Gilchrist, Alachua, Putnam, Clay, Bradford, Union, Baker, Columbia, Suwannee, Hamilton, and Madison. I take another gulp of water. The second day of the FQP I plan to run the counties: Wakulla, Leon, Liberty, Franklin, Gulf, Bay, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, Liberty again, and Gadsden.

I lean back in my chair and listen for any MARAC Mini Michigan mobile activity, I enjoy hot weather better than cold weather. I empty the bottle of water and toss the empty bottle into the recycle container. County hunter love their counties. I grin like a kid playing a video game when I hear Gator's 4X4 downshift as he slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. I look out the window, I smile as I watch Gator get a white cardboard container from the cab and head to the radio shack, but first he stops at the mailbox.

Gator enters the radio shack and sets the mail on the desk, "Greetings Dude, you look like you need a latte and an éclair." I smile and violently shake my head yes. Gator reaches into the container and hands me a supersized latte and a hot from the oven éclair. We both sit, sip and munch as Gator checks 30 meters and we munch in syncopation with the

QRM. I set my latte down, “Gator how about you check out my UBA DX Contest and my South Carolina QSO party log.” Gator shakes his head yes sets his latte down, faces the computer and mouses around.

“Dude you worked eight Belgian stations, did you even try?” I smile, “Yes Gator I actually went up and down the band listening for an ON call and I worked the stations I heard.” Gator laughs, “Dude you did better in the South Carolina QSO party. You made 27 QSO with eight being on 80-meters and Dude you worked one 1X2 call, two new counties on 80-0meters and several Bingo.” “How many mobiles did I work?” Gator grunts, “You worked three mobiles but only Thad, K3TD, is a MARAC member.” I laugh, “But in this case I got several No Star’s.”

We grin and sip our lattes and finish off our éclair.

For no reason I laugh out loud and say, “Gator, you still angry about another person also called Gator, you were furious when you left last time.” Gator grins like someone completing that first CW county contact, “No Dude, he must be special like me, the handle Gator is used under very detailed and specific red neck conditions. Case closed.” We both laugh and sip our lattes. “Gator, I almost forgot, check out my Wisconsin QSO party.

Gator turns toward the computer, “Not bad Dude., you made 50 QSO’s, logged 27 counties, made two contacts on 160 meters and worked two mobiles and no they are not a MARAC member.” I set my latte on the desk, “I understand a winter storm was approaching Wisconsin and the mobiles were changing their schedules according.” Gator is looking at the calls I worked, “Dude what ever happened to Jeff, W9MSE, I do not see his call listed and Jeff always operated in this QSO party and usually won it?” I sip my latte, “That is a good question Gator, I will check with other county hunters. Now check out my Oklahoma QSO party log.”

Gator loads the Oklahoma QSO party log, “Not bad Dude for an overweight senior. You made 79 QSO’s, worked 43 Oklahoma counties and logged one new 1X3 and one 2X2 call. Wow Dude, you worked nine mobiles, but the only MARC member was Bob, N4CD.” I interrupt Gator, “Make a check of my Stew Perry log, I think I got some new counties on 160 meters.” I sip my latte as Gator mouses around. “Dude you only made 40 QSO’s in the Stew Perry Topband Challenge and yes you did get two new counties. We give a latte salute.

Gator picks up a magazine off the pile of mail and scans through it, “Dude this is your copy of your QST magazine, and I notice there is an article about State QSO parties.”

“Thanks Gator put a book mark on the page, and I will read it later.” We sip our lattes and listen to the radio hoping to hear more CW operators running counties as a result of the MARAC Michigan Mini. “ Gator, I almost forgot please check out my Virginia and Louisiana QSO parties.

Gator loads the Louisiana QSO party log and starts laughing, “Dude you only works 13 QSO’s and most of them with that Texas Dude Norm,W3DYA, I guess band conditions?” I shake my head in agreement, “Yes Norm was one of the few stations I heard on CW.” Gator giggles, “You did better in the Virginia QSO party with 47 QSO’s and you had a decent total on 80-meters. I just noticed you worked the Russian DX contest but only worked 6 Russian stations, same problem no hear?” I shake my head yes.

“Dude I almost forgot, you stopped to visit your sister, who just moved into an assisted senior living facility in Oxford, Mississippi. on your way to the bowling tournament in Memphis, Tennessee. Did you get friendly with any senior babes?” I grin, “Well Gator let me tell about this babe. She was my age, with the body of a 70-year-old, she slithered up to me...

Gator’s cell phone goes CQ, CQ, CQ and Gator answers then looks at me, tell me later Dude I got to get back to the plant, some federal inspectors are there to look at my production records. He is gone like a tax refund and I hear him yell good luck Ted, K1BV. I hear the printer stop and I grab the printout and note it is a list of the mobile county hunters that checked onto the county hunter’s CW call frequencies during the month of March.

I read: AB4WL, AG6V, AI5P, KN4Y, K7TM, K8ZZ, KB6UF, N4CD, N7IV, N9AC, VE3LYC, W3DYA, W4SIG and WB4KZW.

The month of April is a county hunters State QSO party bonanza with 635 counties up for grabs starting with Mississippi (32 counties), Missouri (115 counties), New Mexico (33 counties), North Dakota (53 counties), Georgia (159 counties). Nebraska (93 counties), Michigan (83 counties), and ending out the month is Florida (67 counties). Across the Northern border is the Ontario QSO party with 50 counties up for grabs.

State park junkies will be in radio glory with the Florida and Texas on the Air activities. For the DX operator there is the Hungarian Key Contest on CW and The Holyland DX contest to mention For those who let their computer have all the fun there is the International Spring Distal Contest. Nap time.



State Park
Straight
a few.
10-10

County Alerts

(Or: How to receive alerts on your smart phone when a county you need has been posted)
Kerry W4SIG

When sitting by the rig it is relatively easy to watch the county spots and have Logger notify you when a county has been posted that you need. But, what about when you are not sitting by the computer? What if you are mobile and don't want to miss counties you need while driving? Thanks to the W6RK web page there is a very handy way to resolve this. Simply by setting up "alerts" for the counties you need, you will receive an instant email when that elusive county is initially posted! There is nothing like a "ding" coming from your smart phone to let you know a hot one is on the air.

Utilizing the W6RK spotting site you can customize everything. Here is how it works. First, make sure that your smart phone (iphone or android, doesn't matter which) is set up to receive your emails and that your phone emits a noise of some sort each time you receive a new email. If you need help with this, you can look on the internet or ask your favorite millennial or 10 year old grandchild how to set this up. Next, go to ch.w6rk.com/alerts. This page will explain how to get set up and how to use this feature. Once your account is set up you will be able to very easily click on each county that you want an email alert on. Simple.

I cannot tell you how many times I have been away from the computer yet have been alerted in this fashion where I didn't miss that much needed county. It really helps when you are mobile and don't want to miss out on other mobiles. It also helps when you are working in the yard, shopping at the store, or anywhere else where you can't sit by the rig but have your cell phone in your pocket.

Make sure you read the article by KA2LHO in this issue of the RoadRunner as well. He explains how he expands this feature so that he gets the alerts on his Apple Watch! Utilizing these tools and technology can greatly assist you in reaching your county hunting goals!

NOTE: If you would rather receive your alerts as a text message (much faster method!!) than an email, then you can do that instead. When you set up your alerts with the W6RK site and it asks for your email you put in your cell phone number in the format that your cellphone carrier utilizes. For example if your cell number is 123-456-7890 this is what you would put in:

For Sprint Users: 1234567890@messaging.sprintpcs.com

For Verizon Users: 1234567890@vtext.com

For ATT Users: 1234567890@txt.att.net

For you folks chasing different Books (like prefixes, bands, modes, etc) you can actually set up a separate account for each. That way you will only get an alert when the posted county matches what you need it for! There is no limit on how many accounts you can set up. (Thanks to K2MF for this tip!)



The Apple Watch: A Useful Tool for Mobile County Hunting

Kraig Pritts, KA2LHO

NOTE: Not all screen photographs were taken on the same time and day but are actual displays of the Apple Watch in use with no alterations. Updates to the app make use different icons.

I have learned a great deal from those in this hobby of County Hunting who have been at it much longer than me. I have heard of many tools that facilitate the tasks of mobile county hunting. This article shares one technique that I frequently use on the road.



I own an iPhone and an Apple Watch. The combination of the two provides opportunities to get information about and record contacts while driving in quick and safe manner. To the right you will see my primary watch display. You can customize many different watch faces to suit your needs. This one provides temperature, time, calendar events, UTC time (12-hour format), and today's date all in a single glance.

Each point of data other than the main date and time screen across the top will take you to another screen with a simple touch of the finger.



When a county that I need is posted to the W6RK spotting site, I receive an email on my phone that also shows up on my watch face as shown in the photo on the left. With a glance, you can see all the pertinent information to make the contact. I generally keep all the “normal” county hunter net frequencies in sequential memory locations on my FT-857D mounted in my Ford Explorer. A quick switch of the dial and I can be on the frequency. A touch of the tune button sets my ATAS Antenna to the correct length and I am ready to make the contact.



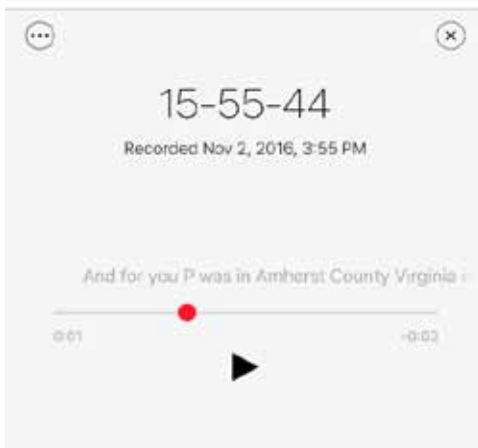
After making the contact I note the UTC as shown on the watch and touch the microphone button on the watch. The screen shown on the right pops up and you are now in the One Button Record app on your phone.

Quickly a second screen will come up and the recording begins. I report the contact information, county

for the contact, my county, UTC and report and frequency. You can also record the date BUT, the app automatically time and date stamps the recording (in local time). The recording is stored on your phone via Bluetooth and when a cell signal is available it will be uploaded to iCloud and stored for later retrieval.

The picture below shows how the phone app appears when you retrieve a recording. Note the time and date stamp of the recording.

Verizon LTE 7:54 AM 95%



Other features of the setup include a UTC global sunrise/sunset graph. The picture below is found when you tap the UTC display on the main screen. By tapping on the main screen temperature indicator, you will get more weather details and any potential weather alerts in your area as shown in the weather photo below.



There are other smart devices on the market that may also provide these and other tools for the mobile County Hunter. I use an iPhone and thus the Apple Watch made more sense for my purposes. If you have such a device, hopefully this information will inspire you to find even more ways to make your technology serve you in pursuit of the WBOW!

73, Kraig-KA2LHO

Awards

Awards Committee

Info from the Awards Secretary – AB7RW:

The new processing program for Last County in a State (LC1) award applications was placed in production on March 25, 2019. The new program automatically picks up all last county submissions that are entered on the MARAC.org website. During development and testing, Don (K3IMC) located many of the LC1s that had been submitted but never processed by the old program. They will be processed by the new program eventually (as time permits).

With the new program, there is no change for anyone submitting an award application. Make the application on MARAC.org as always, remembering to fill in all necessary fields. We expect that each application will be processed properly and if a single submission is incomplete, the program should identify what other info is needed so we can get that info and process the application. However, that incomplete submission might be held for a short period pending correction. Therefore, please do not enter the same submission more than once!

This new program captures all the submissions automatically and presents the submissions to me one at a time for review. If everything appears to be complete on a submission, all I have to do is click “Accept”. If I want to stop processing submissions for a temporary period, I can click on “Quit” and the program will pick up where I left off the next time I log in to the program. When all submissions have been reviewed and processed, I click on “Send Email Notifications” and the program will send email notifications to recipients, like in the past.

In the future, the following capabilities will be added to the new processing program:

- 1) processing of Last County in the USA applications (LC2)
- 2) processing of plaque requests, and
- 3) automatic creation and distribution of certificates.

However, those features are not currently available and it is requested that you should hold any LC2 submissions and plaque requests for LC2 recipients until availability of that functionality is announced.

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager

ELECTION INFORMATION

CORRECTION Last month, under the SSB - Best Mobile section, I inadvertently reported K8ES. The correct call sign should have been K8EMS for the July 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2018 voting period. Congratulations to K8EMS and all others listed last month for recognition from their peers.

MARAC 3rd Quarter Award Voting

Voting will be open April 7 thru April 22, 2019, beginning at 0700 zulu. Please watch the website and forum for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: This voting period covers the time frame of January 1 thru March 31, 2019. All MARAC members will receive an email from Simply Voting with instructions and your election key. When you have finished voting, click on CONTINUE and CONFIRM to complete the voting process.

Simply Voting is automatically set up to send two (2) reminders during the voting period. If you voted and receive a reminder email, it means you did NOT click on CONTINUE and CONFIRM. Please follow the instructions in the email and go thru the process again to cast your ballot. There are safety features in place to keep you from voting more than once. If you have any questions or problems, please email me and together we'll get the issue resolved.

You will be voting for 1st and 2nd place for the following awards.

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

When voting for Best NCS, please take into consideration nets are no longer occupied by a Net Control. You will be voting for the individual(s) who assist the mobile by spotting and sticking around to help with relays.

MARAC 2019 ELECTIONS

Nominations for 2019 Elections closed on March 10, 2019. Normally an election is not held when only one individual is running for a position. There are many who were appointed, due to resignations, to the position they now hold. The board decided an election would be held this year to avoid any questions whether an individual was properly elected by the membership.

On behalf of MARAC, I am proud to introduce, or re-introduce, the following individuals. If you are new to MARAC, this is an excellent way to learn a little about those running and for those who have been long time members, you may discover something you weren't aware of.

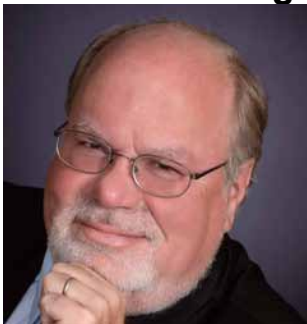
Ed Eklin K8ZZ Candidate for President



I have been a member in good standing of MARAC for about 20 years and will run for President in the upcoming election. I have been on the Board this past year as Vice President and President. I have accomplished many awards over the years, but my main focus has been on transmitting from all counties. I have transmitted from 2719 unique counties and have 358 to finish all 3077. Over the years I have Hosted 13 conventions and the next one being the Michigan Mini in April of this year. Thanks for your support.

(Ed was appointed to VP position in 2017 when the President and Vice President positions were vacated. In 2018 the President position was again vacated and the VP filled that position. This is a 2 year term which runs until 2021.)

Kraig Pritts KA2LHO Candidate for Vice President



I first became a MARAC member (R-1433) in the early 1980's and began running counties back then. After a ham related accident that put me out of commission for 9 months, I lost interest in the hobby in general. As I approached retirement in 2014, I

began to get back involved with ham radio and county hunting specifically. I am still on first time around for USACA, my ultimate goal.

I was honored to be appointed to the position of Vice President this past summer. The leadership team has focused on sharing information and leading the organization. Teams to handle specific areas were

established including IT, Elections, Awards, Archives, History, Contests and more. Each team has a Board Point of Contact to facilitate communications between the teams and the Board. I was in the field of education for more than three decades. Within those years, the last 17 were spent in various leadership roles including District Technology Director, School Business Administrator and Superintendent of Schools for more than a decade. In retirement I was recruited to serve as the President of the Onondaga (NY) County Cooperative Extension. There is more to do and so I have submitted my nomination to continue as Vice President for a full term. While much progress has been made since July, there is still more work to do. We have a stable leadership team and the hope is that this same team will be able to continue to work together to not only stabilize MARAC but to move the organization forward.

(Kraig was appointed to the VP position in 2018 when K8ZZ became President. This is a 2 year term which runs until 2021.)

Brett Schaefer K9MIX Candidate for Secretary



Having been born in 1943 and started hamming in 1958. I am prone to radios with linear dials and glowing tubes. I operate both tube type and solid state equipment. My antennas are all fed with home made open wire feeders which are connected to the various radios via a homebrew antenna tuner. The basic shack includes IC-735, two Heathkit HW-100s, a homebrew dual 813 linear amplifier, a National NC-183D for general listening and various other old boat anchors. The major operation is county hunting. I also operate mobile with an IC-735 and Hustler antennas operating on 80 - 10 meters. My career was in electronics as a microwave radio engineer. I am now semi-retired. Hobbies include ham radio, train watching, model railroading (N scale) and enjoying the outdoors, my family and grandchild. (Brent was appointed to the Secretary position in 2018. This is a 2 year term which runs until 2021.)

Bill Morgan K0DEQ Candidate For Treasurer



I was recently appointed as MARAC Treasurer and am now a candidate to continue in this position. I have been an active ham operator since November, 1955. I was an early participant in county hunting, receiving USA CA 500 award #47 many years ago. My MARAC membership number is R-532 so I have been a MARAC member for a long time. I was active mobile for many years, especially on CW, operating in many of the annual MARAC contests. Then I drifted into DXing for several years, returning to active county hunting about 10 years ago, which allowed me to finally obtain USA CA #1220 in October, 2011. I am a semi-retired attorney and am pleased to be able to contribute to the MARAC organization.

(Bill was appointed to the Treasurer position in 2018. This is a 2 year term which runs until 2021.)

Darl Deeds NA8W Great Lakes Director



I have been a Ham since 1977. Starting as a Novice and over several years moving up to the 20 wpm Extra Class license. I am a retired Farmer and Deputy Sheriff. I also served 6 years in the Ohio National Guard. I was the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Hancock County until coming to Florida in the winter and then moved to the Assistant EC position which I remain. I have always been interested in DX and I am one away from having worked them all, North Korea is my last country. After I got the last couple of countries I needed something to do and along with a scheduled vacation trip out west I thought about County Hunting. I attended the county hunter forum in 2010 and watched the video that WY7LL, Leo, made. Afterwards I talked at length with Leo and decided to give county hunting a try on the trip. Needless to say it got in my blood. I live in Ohio in the summer and the last couple years spend my winters in Florida. I have a radio at both ends and a good mobile in the middle. I have worked them all once and am working on the second time around. I have transmitted from over 600 separate counties during my many trips. I've attended two Michigan mini's and two National Conventions. I volunteered to fill the unexpired Great Lakes director

position while at the Kansas City Convention and now ask for your continued support in electing me for the remainder of the Great Lakes Director term.

(Darl was appointed to this position in 2018. Darl will be completing a 3 year term which ends in 2021.)

AI Kaiser N1API Northeast Director



I am AI Kaiser - N1API and I am running for re-election for your Northeast District Director.

I have served as your Director since 2015 when I replaced Carol AB2LS who moved out of the district and I've enjoyed my time as a Director and look forward to continuing in this position with your support.

The past year has been another year of transition, change and learning for MARAC. New Officers and Directors have come on board and we have been learning how to work together to accomplish good things for MARAC. There have been some struggles along the way but we have made good progress and I look forward to helping to continue that process. We have managed to find new volunteers to fill open positions and they have taken to their duties well. We always encourage members to step up and volunteer even if it is just for a one time task like representing MARAC at a hamfest or convention.

I have always said that I believe that change comes from the membership and the Officers and Directors and members of the Board are there to implement that change and make sure that it is change which is fair to all parties involved.

I have been a MARAC Member since the early 80's and have obtained many of the MARAC Awards and I continue to work toward others. One of the biggest changes in the past couple of years has been the growth of the digital County Hunting modes and I think that we will need to address this issue more as it continues to grow in popularity with the members.

I am active on the air on 2 through 40 meters, (with the exception of 30 meters), on phone SSB and Digital which has become one of my favorite modes. I am an active contester and have placed well in most contests that I put an effort into especially worked All Europe which I have always called my favorite DX Contest. I continue to work the QSO parties and digital to complete my MARAC awards. In closing I would like to say that I am always available to discuss issues pertaining to MARAC and am happy to discuss how I arrived at the decision to vote on any particular issue. Remember if an item comes up for a vote, my vote will be what I believe it for the good of MARAC and the members. If I get input from the members and see that there are more whose opinion is different than mine, I will vote "For the members" rather than my own opinion.

(AI is up for re-election. This is a 3 year term which ends in 2022).

Janet Camron KC5QCB South Central Director



My name is Janet/KC5QCB. I am running for the position of South Central Director. At the convention in Kansas City I stepped up to fill this position until the elections. During the last few months I have decided that I would like to continue in this role. One of the reasons I wanted to do this was to encourage other females within our organization to become active participants. I also would like to see more recruitment of female hams either by themselves or part of an OM/XYL team. In the short time I have been on the Board of Directors I have seen some positive changes and I would like to see that continue.

I have been a licensed ham since 1996 when I became a Technician. A few months later I became a Tech +. I was collecting counties on 10 meters and had about 400 of them when I finally became a General and found 14.336. I have enjoyed it ever since.

My husband Randy/AJ5ZX and I enjoy combining our sightseeing trips with putting out counties. Not only does it help the trip not be so boring but occasionally we might see something awesome that we didn't plan on when someone says "Can you go one county over for me please?"

Thank you all for your consideration of me for South Central Director. See you on the air.

(Janet was assigned in 2018. She will be completing a 3 year term which ends in 2020.)

Donna Hinshaw AG6V Pacific Director



(AG6V operating portable from the van)

At the suggestion of my friend and elmer, Bill Zaner W6IYS (USA-CA all CW), I started hunting counties in March of 2013. It's a good thing my personality allows for delayed gratification: after five years, I'm only at about 65% confirmed, all CW. It has been a real challenge, a learning experience, and a joy of meeting some great people on the air and at a MARAC convention. And MARAC members have been a huge help.

That help is why I'm throwing my hat into the ring to be Pacific Region Director for MARAC: to give back something to the club and the people who have been such a help and source of fun to me.

I retired from the Corporate World in 1997, from a career in database software consulting. My most fun job was as a consultant with Oracle Corporation designing databases for Fortune 500 clients. My whole career related to computers, after getting a BA in Chemistry from Pomona College and an MBA from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College. It was fun until my last job at an un-named corporation, where the fun stopped. I was in a position to retire, so I did and I'm really glad.

Since retiring, other than ham radio, I love to run, bike ride, quilt, knit, read and commune with the cats in my life. I am happily married to AG6OW, who is not an active ham, but Linda supports all my ham purchases and trips and stints at the operating desk.

I am a fairly new ham operator, having gotten my license in 2009. I started out as a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) member. We were encouraged to get our license so we could add communications to our abilities. I passed the test and proudly took my Big Brother, Jerry Hinshaw N6JH, to HRO in Oakland to help me pick out a HT. But I knew there were additional licensing levels, and thought it would be easier to operate if I had the highest level and wouldn't have to keep track of where my band limits were. And once on HF, I was hooked. WAS, WAC, WAZ... challenges have been met, all CW.

In California, I was active in Navy Marine Corps MARS, acting as GAE 13 in charge of personnel reporting. I was also an officer or board member in several volunteer organizations such as a tandem bicycling club and a local quilting guild. I helped lead our 360 home community in CERT training as well as using nextdoor.com to improve communications.

When I moved to Washington State, one of the main goals was to have a location where I could have a tower, since I used to live in a HOA. And remote operation was costly and limiting. Success was found on Whidbey Island, WA. It took two years of planning and permit applications, but I have my tower.



(AG6V ready for the concrete pour for the tower)

Mobile operation has now started to draw me, and I've got an evolving portable setup in the van. I'm starting to put out counties during road trips to cities where there are running events, which is my other passion.

I hope to get to know more of you in the Pacific Region, and across all of MARAC.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Donna Hinshaw
AG6V
ARRL Life Member
SKCC 6933S
CWOPS 911
MARAC R-4570

(Donna is taking over for N7JPF who has fulfilled his term ending in 2019. This is a new 3 year term which ends in 2022)

Best of luck to all -

Mary - AB7NK
MARAC Election Coordinator

Failed (somewhat) Idaho mobile trip

Kerry W4SIG

You know what they say about the “best laid plans of mice and men”... Well, like many of us, mobile trips don’t always turn out as you would like. In March I unfortunately had to fly to a funeral in southeast Idaho. To make the best of this unexpected journey I saw it as an opportunity to put out some new counties that others, and I, really needed. Boise County Idaho was a WBOW county for K5GE, and Blaine, ID was a WBOW county for me. So why not set up a rental car and get these taken care of? I had never run mobile in a rental and wasn’t about to haul my screwdriver antenna on an airplane to reassemble. So, I ordered a mag mount and some hamsticks for the operation. They arrived the day before I left, and simple testing immediately showed that the 40 meter hamstick was defective. No fear, 20,30, and 80 should allow some fun, right?

In Idaho my first concern was the rental car. The only one left at the airport late at night had a glass moon roof! So much for a good ground plane. Early the next morning I set off for Boise County. After arriving at the county line I set up my equipment on the rear passenger seat next to my 6 month old grandson’s car seat and prepared for operation. While squatting outside the rear door to spot myself the rain and sleet started! After completing a handful of QSOs including Gene’s contact for WBOW I decided it was time to get out of the weather. After sending a “QRZ?” I sat down on the edge of the seat next to the equipment and I heard a noise emit from the baby’s car seat (I will leave it to you to imagine what that QRM was!). Immediately I lost power to the rig!! After a long and futile attempt to remedy the problem I realized the culprit was the connector cable between the rig and the control panel. With no way to repair this cable and no way to get one locally my mobile trip was toast. I will blame my grandson’s flatulation for killing the rig. Hi!

While I was pleased to have finished up Gene, K5GE, for WBOW, I was disappointed that I would not get Blaine Idaho for my last for 4th time around. Then the sky cleared a little and I got a phone call from Bob, K7TM, asking if I still needed Blaine. He was about an hour from it!! Soon, after connecting with my remote station, we made contact and I can’t express the gratitude and relief I felt at that moment.

All the preparation for the trip resulted in less than 10 qsos, but the main goals were accomplished and I have memories of a very unusual mobile trip, to say the least!



**Unofficial Minutes
from MARAC Board Meeting Mar 4, 2019**

Pending approval by Board of Directors

Submitted by Brent Schaefer, K9MIX

Meeting call to order

- Meeting was called to order via teleconference by K8ZZ at 9:00 PM EST.
- Quorum was established with the following members present: K8ZZ, KA2LHO, K9MIX, K0DEQ, NA8W, N1API, W4SIG, N7JPF, and NF0N.
- KA2LHO shared that item 8 on this agenda is an add on from the original published agenda at the request of N1API and N7JPF.
- Motion to approve minutes from BOD meeting 11/12/2018 was made by N7JPF. 2nd by K0DEQ, all voted aye

Old Business NONE

New Business

- **Motion** to approve the recommendation of the Awards Committee as conveyed by the Awards Manager to eliminate the Net Control of the Year Award for SSB and the Net Control of the Year Award for CW effective July 1, 2019.
 - Motion by N7JPF, 2nd by KA2LHO, all voted aye.
- **Motion** to approve the new Mobile Assist of the Year Award for SSB and the Mobile Assist of the Year for CW effective July 1, 2019 (attachment 2).
 - Motion by NF0N, 2nd by W4SIG, all voted aye.
- **Motion** to approve up to \$600 for W4SIG to reserve and set up a booth to represent MARAC at the Dayton Hamvention 2019.
 - Motion by NA8W, 2nd by K0DEQ, Yes-8, No-0, Abstention-W4SIG.
- **Motion** to approve the attached amendments and revisions to the MARAC By-Laws (attachment 3 as revised in Section 3.3c) with an effective date of July 1, 2019 upon ratification by the membership.
 - Motion by W4SIG, 2nd by K0DEQ, all voted aye.
- **Motion** to award to K1BV the Outstanding Achievement Award plaque for his many years of service to MARAC and the Amateur Radio community as USA-CA Award Custodian and Award columnist for CQ Magazine
 - Motion by N1API, 2nd by N7JPF, all voted aye.
- **Motion** to Adjourn the Board of Directors meeting
 - Motion by N1API, 2nd by NA8W, all voted aye
- Meeting adjourned at 9:25 EST
- **Open Discussion** with membership
 - K9MIX will contact NF0N regarding the database being down.
 - AG6V, Donna, made some inquiries regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Pacific Director position.

Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)

Jan 19, 2019 to Mar 19, 2019

Beginning Account Balance \$25,392.54

Income:

Savings Account Interest	\$ 13.29	
Awards Secretary Income		
Misc Income (1)		
Membership Income	\$296.48	
Logger Distribution Income	40.00	
Total Income		\$349.77



Expenses:

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$ 8.00	
Misc. Expenses (2)	830.20	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)		
Total expenses		\$838.20

Net Income Less Expenses (\$488.43)

Cash Balance \$24904.11

Checking Account Balance	\$ 8,532.94	
Savings Account Balance	16,371.17	
Total all accounts		\$24,904.11

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

Notes (2) Misc expenses consisted of \$434.20 annual fee to Simply Voting and \$396 annual premium on liability insurance policy.

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6126.15, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$18,778.96

A View From the Past



Events

- 4/6 MS QP
- 4/6 MO QP
- 4/6 FL POTA
- 4/13 NM QP
- 4/13 TX POTA
- 4/13 ND QP
- 4/13 GA QP
- 4/14 ARRL ROOKIE SSB
- 4/20 NE QP
- 4/20 MI QP
- 4/25 MI MINI
- 4/27 10-10 DIGI
- 4/27 FL QP

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, Mike Nickolaus, NF0N, 316 East 32nd St, South Sioux City, NE 68776, 712-223-3164, nf0n@arrl.net

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