



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## Thoughts from the VP...

*Kraig KA2LHO*

**W**ow! The summer months are ending way too soon. Here in Florida, students return to classes in about two weeks and the “normal” routines start up again for another year. It has been great to see an increase in mobile activity in recent weeks. I was out running parks/counties in West Central Florida as well as a quick trip up to Charleston, SC and back.

It was great to hear an increasing number of County Hunters also chasing parks (and the counties in which the parks are located) as well as activating parks (and the counties in which they are located). The more people on the air, the more interest we generate for others to see. More of the “regular” park people are beginning to watch W6RK on a regular basis as we CHers are using that to spot the park AND county.

Late winter, spring and summer found me in a complete redesign/replacement of my radio shack including the shelving. I added remote capabilities so that I can use *my own* equipment when in a hotel or staying with family and still want to be on the air. Photos and details are available on my QRZ page.

It was great to have members join the Annual Meeting Uberconference. The overall feel of the discussion was upbeat and forward thinking. Let’s keep that up. I hope that everyone found the Annual Report to be informative and helpful. Our collective goal was to provide you all with a snapshot of the status of the organization.

I want to say thank you for those who reach out to me directly with comments, thoughts, concerns and suggestions. Any that I receive are answered as quickly as I can get to them. I appreciate your patience in that area.

I look forward to getting everyone in my log many, many times in the future!



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**Dateline CW**

ED, KN4Y

Let us motor out and taste the morning prime...Let us be AM CW County Hunters.

I arrive at the radio shack early so I could give the tile floor its tri-annual cleaning. Cleanliness may promote good band propagation. I finish putting the cleaning stuff back in the closet when I hear Gator downshift and slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. Gator is carrying the white cardboard container as he stops at the mailbox, gets the mail and enters the shack. "Good morning Dude looks like you got some awards in the mail", he tosses the mail on the desk and opens the white cardboard container. Gator looks around, "Shack looks different and smells clean, you have been busy this morning and finally accomplished something.?" He hands me a latte.

I smile big, "Yes Gator I gave the shack a delayed Spring cleaning, even cleaned the computer keyboard and radio." Gator looks around, "I am glad you finally got off your butt." We have a good laugh as we sip our lattes.

Gator picks out a large white envelope from the stack of mail, gets out his Ivory handled Redneck switch blade knife and opens the envelope. He holds up a certificate, "Dude, this certificate is for first place Florida, low power CW, in the British Columbia QSO party. It shows the picture of a ferry on some bay." I smile, "Awesome Gator, while you are in the mood open another large envelope." Gator reaches over and grabs another envelope and opens the envelope with his knife and starts laughing, "Dude you were High Florida in the Virginia QSO party when did you get high power, or did you enter in the drunk category?" I start laughing, "A mistake was made, now check out my Canada Day Contest."

Gator stops laughing and wipes his eyes and loads the Writelog Canada Day Contest module. Gator laughs. "Dude I am impressed. You logged 100 Canadian radio stations during the RAC Canada Day Contest. Why did you stop at 100?" I sip my latte, "Well Gator I have always wanted to work 100 only Canadian stations, but never made my goal until this year. Maybe next year I will go for 125. There was not much time left in this contest when I shut down." Gator is not paying attention he is looking at the computer screen, "Dude I just found the Marconi Memorial CW Contest. You only logged 30 contacts, way down from last year, what happened?" I shake my head in agreement, "Yes Gator the band conditions were not conducive to a S&P operation. I did not hear many stations and in some cases the other station could not hear me calling. I tried all the bands and I did make one contact on 15-meters. But I did try."

Gator is staring at the computer and gets a sad expression, “Dude did you know Charlie, W0RRY and Gene, N2AA? Both are a silent key.” I sadly say, “Yes gator I remember working Charlie starting in 2000 when he occasionally ran mobile in the State of Oklahoma. I worked Gene only a few times back in 2010 during local State QSO parties.” We turn the volume down on the radio, dim the lights and bow our heads as Gator recites The Shepherd’s Psalm.

I sip my latte, “Gator check out my IARU HF World Championships. Gator loads the file,” “Not bad Dude, you logged 200 QSOs and I notice you logged 56 QSOs on ten meters, I bet that was fun.” I take a sip of my latte, “Yes Gator that made my day, check how many stations had a 10:10 number.” A few minutes pass, Gator shakes his head, “You worked only ten stations with a 10:10 number.” “Thanks Gator”

Gator reaches over and takes another large white envelop off the mail pile. He again takes out his illegal redneck Ivory handled switch blade and with the skill of a surgeon, opens the envelope. He takes out the certificate, looks at it and starts laughing so hard he gets down on the floor, tears running down out of both eyes. I yell, ‘Gator what has happened to you?’ He hands me the certificate and I read the title; the award is for 52<sup>nd</sup> place in the Maryland-DC QSO Party. I try to control myself, but I grin a little, “Gator, it is the thought that counts. If you return to normal, whatever that is, check out my CQ World-Wide VHF Contest.” Gator gets back into the chair and take a long sip of latte, while wiping his eyes with a shop towel.

Gator brings up my CQ VHF log, “Not bad Dude you logged 148 QSO’s on 6 meters. and worked 62 different Grid Squares. Think you are a winner?” I look sad, “I would be in contention had I been able to spend more time operating in the contest, but as you know my daughter arrived and I shut the rig down.” Gator stares at the computer, “Dude, you worked 14 new counties on 6-meters.” I grin as if I knew that.

“Dude I was out running some errands when I noticed your truck parked at the senior center, what’s up?” I smile, “I have been going there twice a week for lunch. Let me tell you what happened last Wednesday, it will make you hair curl, it seems...” Gator’s cell phone goes CQ, CQ, CQ and Gator answers it. “Dude I must get to the back forty, surveillance cameras show tents have been set up.” He gone faster than one of Kerry’s donuts, I hear him yell, “Rest in Peace Bounty Hunter Beth.”

I hear the printer stop and I extract the printout listing the CW mobile county hunters that checked into the county hunter’s CW call frequencies during the month of July. I read: AG6Y, AJ5ZX, K1YAG, K2HVN, K3IMC, K6VVA, KA2LHO, KA4RRU,

KB6UF, KC5QCB, N1QY, N4CD, N9JF, W0GXQ, W4JL, W4SIG, W5TD, W8TZA, and WB4KZW.

The month of August brings a smile to the State QSO party junkie. There are four State QSO parties with 222 counties up for grabs. Maryland-DC QSO party with 24 counties, the Hawaii QSO party with 5 counties, the Kansas QSO party with 105 counties and ending the month the Ohio QSO party with 88 counties. Ohio is my birth State, so I plan to operate in this one. A favorite event is the North American CW QSO party where some radio clubs have teams that compete.

What other operating events are schedule you ask? There is the WAE DX CW Contest, the Russian District Award Contest, the W/VE Islands QSO party and the Young Amateur Radio Club (YARC) QSO party. All this future excitement, I better take a nap.



### **Prez August Report**

**N**ice to be home after 10 weeks on the road. 10 states – 8600 miles and put out hundreds of counties. Want to put a large shout out to VP Kraig, and the rest of the board and volunteers for keeping everything rolling with great efficiency. Great job!

Ed Eklin K8ZZ



## Election Tidbits

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Ballot Recognition

Congratulations to the following stations for receiving recognition from their peers during the **April 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30, 2019** voting period. The results are listed in no particular order and have received at least 3 points. First place is given 2 points and 1 point is given for second place. CONGRATULATIONS to all.

**SSB – Mobile of the Year** – N8OYY, KC6AWX, K8ZZ, W4SIG, K5GE, AB7NK, N8KIE, N4CD, N5MLP

**CW – Mobile of the Year** – N4CD, KB6UF, W0GXQ, K8ZZ, NU0Q, AB7RW, AB7NK, W4SIG

**SSB – Net Control of the Year** – KZ2P, K0DEQ, N8KIE, NF0N, KC3X, K2JG, WY8I

**CW – Net Control of the Year** – K0DEQ, KC3X, W0GXQ, KA1JPR

**Team of the Year** – AB7NK/K7SEN, KB0BA/N0XYL

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter votes have been added to the previous quarterly totals to determine the 2019 winners in each category. This information has been forwarded to the Awards Manager and Secretary.

Thank you to all for your patience during this election process. It has been a steep learning curve but with the help of Simply Voting, I believe I now have a handle on things and hopefully the years to come will run smoother.

If anyone has questions regarding Simply Voting, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me and I'll do my best to get the answer you're seeking.

73/88

Mary – AB7NK  
Election Coordinator



Awards

# Awards Committee

## County Hunter of the Year (CHOTY) Results:

Nominations for the SSB and CW categories for this award were solicited from the membership in early 2019. Nominations were routed through the District Directors who selected nominees to forward to the Awards Committee for review. The three nominees for the SSB category were placed on an electronic ballot and voted on by the membership in the month of June. Results of the electronic vote were compiled by the Election Coordinator and forwarded to the Awards Manager. The winners of the CHOTY contest in 2019 are as follows:

2019 MARAC County Hunter of the Year (CHOTY) Award Winners			
Award Title	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
CHOTY - SSB	AB7NK	KC3X	N8KIE
	Mary Vince	Hollis Thigpen	Robert Woody
CHOTY - CW	AB7RW	N/A*	N/A*
	Phil Yasson		
* There was only one nomination for CW. Therefore, no election was necessary and there are no 2nd or 3rd place winners.			

Congratulations to all of these 2019 CHOTY winners!

## Mobile and Net Control of the Year Results:

Members who were current on their dues were given an opportunity to vote online in several separate votes for different periods of activity for those they felt were most deserving of the following awards:

- Mobile of the Year – SSB
- Mobile of the Year – CW
- Mobile Team of the Year
- Net Control of the Year – SSB
- Net Control of the Year – CW

The Election Coordinator conducted all of the online ballots during the year and combined the results of the various voting periods to determine the overall winners. Those results were forwarded to the Awards Manager and the winners are as follows:

2019 MARAC Annual Mobile and Net Control Award Winners			
Award Title	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
Mobile of the Year - SSB	AB7NK	N8OYY	KC6AWX
	Mary Vince	Edward Messenger	Bob Devine
Mobile of the Year - CW	N4CD	K8ZZ	W4SIG
	Bob Voss	Ed Eklin	Kerry Long
Mobile Team of the Year	AB7NK/K7SEN	KB0BA/NOXYL	KA9JAC/KB9YVT
	Mary/Neil Vince	Lowell/Sandra Tennyson	Bob Gedemer/Ann Heimann
Net Control of the Year - SSB	KZ2P	WY8I	WY0A
	Jim Grandinetti	Jim Odam	Butch Porter
Net Control of the Year - CW	K0DEQ	KC3X	W0GXQ
	Bill Morgan	Hollis Thigpen	Jerry Mertz

Congratulations to all of these 2019 annual mobile and net control winners!

### Changes to Annual Awards for 2019 – 2020 period:

As noted in the April, 2019 issue of the Road Runner, the MARAC board of directors voted in March to delete the Net Control of the Year awards effective July 1, 2019 and replace them with new Mobile Assist of the Year awards for both SSB and CW. These are to recognize those individuals who help mobiles in each category of operation by one or more of the following:

- a) announcing the mobile,
- b) posting the mobile station’s callsign, county name and state, and frequency on the spotting sites, and
- c) assisting the mobiles with relays.

The membership will begin voting on who is deserving of the new awards after the first quarter of activity in July through September of 2019 has been completed.

### Awards Issued Since 6/24/19:

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Number	Call	Date of Last Contact	Last County Count:	Number
NS2N	3/5/2013	Bingo II	104	KB6UF	7/17/2010	1550	2
WD4OIN	11/15/2013	USA - Single Band - 20m	33	KB0BA	7/19/2019	350	60
N5MLP	4/25/2019	USA - PA - N	23	N4CD	7/28/2019	2700	1
N4RS	5/5/2019	USA - Single Band - 30m	5				
W4YDY	6/14/2019	USA - PA - N	24				
N8OYY	7/6/2019	Polaris (Cliff Corne Jr.)	481				
AB4WL	7/9/2019	USA - Single Band - 40m	34				
AB4WL	7/10/2019	USA - Digital - Level 1000	18				
AB4WL	7/10/2019	County Challenge - Level 4	54				
NF0N	7/11/2019	WAC - 5th Time	118				
W3CR	7/27/2019	WAC - 9th Time	11				
NF0N	7/28/2019	Bingo III	42				

MARAC Awards Committee



**N5MLP – Ron Clift, MARAC Awards Manager**



**Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)**

June 20, 2019 to July 19, 2019

Beginning Account Balance		\$25,797.14
Income:		
Savings Account Interest	\$	
Awards Secretary Income		
Misc Income		
Membership Income	265.89	
Logger Distribution Income	19.12	
Total Income	<u>                    </u>	\$285.01
Expenses:		
Awards Secretary Expenses		
Misc. Expenses (1)	\$ 225.59	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)		
Total expenses	<u>                    </u>	\$225.59
Net Income Less Expenses		59.42
Cash Balance		\$25,856.56
Checking Account Balance	\$2968.61	
Savings Account Balance	22887.95	
Total all accounts	<u>                    </u>	\$25,856.56



Note (1) – Reimbursement to W4SIG for booth expenses at Dayton Hamvention

The \$1251.80 Awards Secretary funds are not included in the above balance.

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6027.15, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$19,829.41

Events

- 8/3 10-10 SSB QP
- 8/3 NA CW QP
- 8/10 MD/DC QP
- 8/12 4 STATES QP
- 8/17 NA SSB QP
- 8/18 ARRL RTTY ROOKIE ROUNDUP
- 8/24 HI QP
- 8/24 W/VE ISLANDS QP
- 8/24 KS QP
- 8/24 OH 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 25<sup>th</sup>!**

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**Board of Directors**

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**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:** Donna Hinshaw, AG6V, 316 SE Pioneer Way, PMB 172, Oak Harbor, WA 98277. 707-235-3717 ag6v@whidbey.com

**Southeast Director:** Kerry Long, W4SIG, 1854 Newton Nook, Collierville, TN 38017, 901-331-1881, kerrylong@comcast.net

**Immediate Past President:**

**Appointees**

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

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

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