



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## Thoughts from the VP

Kraig-KA2LHO

Our world has quickly changed due to COVID-19. I was fortunate enough to run three Florida State Parks the week before they were shut down completely. While many have complained about the unfairness of this action and how they deserved to have a refund or extension of their annual pass, I have chosen the opposite approach.

Having activated more than half of the Florida State Parks and all mobile accessible ones in Northern Florida from just east of Tallahassee to the Atlantic Coast, I believe it was the right move. Last week it was very clear that park staffing is insufficient to properly clean every park bench, picnic table, camp site, pavilion and rest room that visitors may touch. If this is the step that is necessary to make it safe in our parks for the future, I am fine with donating a few dollars to support the Florida State Park system. Others may disagree but I am ok with the “agree to disagree” approach.

I hope that everyone stays safe. This is not a drill!!!

Important note...

Kerry has done a wonderful job in working to fill the editor role for MARAC, but we are still desperately in need of a Historian for the organization. **If you are interested in this important role, as you saw in full display at displays and presentations during the Kansas City Conference, please contact any Board of Directors members as soon as possible.**

Stay safe and well.

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Kraig -KA2LHO

# Coronavirus Ham Radio Guidelines

Wayne-W4TZB

## GUIDELINES

Amateur Radio operators are requested to adapt to the Coronavirus mitigation guidelines as they apply to amateur radio operating.

All ham radio operators are encouraged to stay at least 6 feet from the microphone in order to maintain proper separation from others. The distance may be reduced if a mask is put on the microphone.

CW operators should wear appropriate gloves when handling keys. Keyboard CW operators should disinfect their keyboards.

There should be no more than 10 stations on the same frequency at the same time.

Disinfect all knobs, switches, etc. before operating ... especially touch screens and PTT. Shoe covers should be worn when using foot switches. Use of hands-free VOX is strongly encouraged although from 6 feet away, it may be necessary to shout.

Disinfect all antenna cables coming into the station.

Only mobile stations and walkie-talkie contacts are permitted where sit-down service has been banned. The 6 ft microphone separation guideline is suspended for these types of operation, but the use of a mask on the microphone is strongly recommended.

Mobile operators are encouraged to remain in their vehicles except to get necessities.

Operators should leave their operating positions only for necessities.

Outdoor antenna work is allowed as long as there is social distancing among all who are present.

Hoarding of batteries, spare tubes, etc. is discouraged and is unfair to others. We are in this together.

New equipment and parts should be ordered "to-go" online for front porch delivery.

Do not test (tune) your equipment unnecessarily. Testing should be reserved for those who actually need it.

Your understanding and cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

# Texas Armadillo Crawl

Kerry-W4SIG



Way back in 1983 the Texas DX Society organized a massive effort to activate all 254 Texas counties in two days. It was very impressive and took a very extensive and coordinated effort. They had hams in private planes checking on status of mobiles and even backup mobiles to cover counties if a planned mobile had technical difficulties. They pulled it off! That weekend and subsequent efforts during the next few years for the MARAC National Contest were famously called the “Armadillo Run”. I remember it well as I was able to work 252 of the 254 counties that weekend. How fun!! Afterwards I remember my KN4Y-esque nap....

Well now it is 2020 and in late February I decided to put my mobile effort to the test. It was just me; no passenger, no navigator, no logger, no plane, and no way I was going to cover all 254 counties. So, I will just dub it the “Armadillo Crawl”. On my long five-day trip running 15 hours a day, I was able to put out 128 of them, just over half, plus 20 counties in Arkansas. I tried to activate all of them on 80CW, 80SSB, 40 CW, 40SSB, 30CW, 20CW, 20SSB, and 17CW. After the first day and only having made 3 QSOs total on 20SSB I decided to drop that band/mode. 17 meters wasn’t very successful either, due to band conditions, but I was able to get a contact in about one fourth of the counties I ran. The BIG surprise was that I was able to get a good consistent group of contacts on 80 meters in every county, all day and night long! MANY THANKS to Butch, **WY0A**, and Barry, **N0KV** for providing excellent “mobile assist” help and relays in 99% of the counties on the entire trip. I also had relay assistance on CW from **KC3X**, **NS2N**, **K4AMC**, and a few others. In the counties where I didn’t have cell coverage to self-spot, I cannot thank these folks and others for their spotting skills. That help was much appreciated, both by me and by the stations fighting through some tough propagation conditions. It was also fun to hear folks that don’t ordinarily operate CW grab their key and join in on the fun on the CW frequencies. I was pleased to hear quite a few county hunters that I haven’t heard in years jump in for a contact or two.

As some of you know, I was held up not once but thrice by the local authorities! They weren’t pulling me over for speeding (although at times I admit I was pushing the Texas 80MPH speed limit!), but for “suspicious activity”! Many mobiles have had this experience with their porcupine antennas and the curiosity it provokes. However, in my case, two of the three stops were for suspicion of illegal transportation of humans/drugs or the aid thereof. There is a lot of open area along the southern border of Texas that has small brush and trees that make it an ideal place to hide and cross into the country. Add this to me stopping by the side of the road in the middle of the desert at times to run counties and I am sure I looked like I was up to no good. I had my carrying cases of antenna parts and tools inspected along with my bag. Thank goodness I am a law-abiding citizen! In both cases I thanked the police and border patrol for doing such a thorough, and oftentimes, thankless job. The third time I was stopped was a different story. It was about 9PM local time under the dark starless sky when the dust/dirt from the back roads and cattle trails caught up with me. The motor on my Tarheel screwdriver antenna decided enough was enough. It grinded to a halt somewhere tuned to what would be about the 65 meter band...which does me no good. I thought it had “bit the dust” for good. While pulled over to cry about it I saw headlights down the not-too-distant road. I U-turned to head back to the nearest signs of civilization when the vehicle pulled up behind me with their over-powered bright lights on, thereby blinding me from behind. After following me for a while they pulled around me and disappeared into the twilight. But low and behold a police car took their position behind me with his “blue-light-special” indicators.

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Apparently, the prior follower had called the cops on his CB saying I was suspiciously stopped for a while and then was swerving on the road when he was tailing me. I had to explain that I probably was swerving a little as I couldn't see from the tailgater's bright lights up in my grill. In all three cases I was stopped I was, of course, asked what all the antenna gear was for and where I was headed. In all three cases I tried to explain that I was testing my mobile gear so I would be able to assist the Red Cross or any other agency that might need it in case of a natural disaster. While somewhat true, this was a lot easier to explain than county hunting and the rules of the Mobile Diamond Award! As to the question of "where are you going", that was a tough one. Hard to explain that I am snaking all over Texas to get that last 30 meter contact to finish the state! Instead I explained I was working my way, in a not so direct way, to visit my son in Ft Worth. That seemed to be an acceptable answer. As for the antenna trouble, I was able to find some rubbing alcohol at a store and take my Tarheel off the car and disassemble it for a good cleaning. Of course, doing this in the pitch dark at 5:30AM on the ground of a parking lot at 28 degrees and a 20MPH wind made it that much enjoyable. Thank goodness for the flashlight app on my phone I could see, somewhat, what I was doing. Thankfully that was the solution and I was on my way again with only a short delay.

Here are some things I learned on this journey:

- 1) Texas is a REALLY big state
- 2) There is a lot of desert in Texas and it looks just like in the movies
- 3) Cows could care less when a car drives by for the first time in an hour
- 4) Cattle grates can do a vibration number on your radio connections
- 5) Southern Texas knows DUST (When I got home my blue car was brown!)
- 6) There is a town in Texas called Turkey. And the gas station serves good tamales to go!
- 7) Border patrol is very busy doing their job
- 8) 80 meters is my favorite mobile band these days
- 9) I have a lot of friends in county hunting that were there for most of the trip!! THANKS!!!!
- 10) Supposedly there are more cows in Loving County than people. I saw neither
- 11) Texas is a REALLY big state!



A few images from the 1986 Armadillo Run (love the shorts!)



Really???? 😊 ONLY in Texas!

## W4SIG/M Setup



The Hawaiian hula dancer keeps me company....my kids gave me the fuzzy dice

Kenwood TS480 SAT (100W with autotuner). Main unit is under drivers seat.

I used advice from W4YDY to have county lines overlaid on my Garmin GPS map, so I know when I am close to a new county.

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**LOVE my little Palm key. I use Velcro to mount it between the driver's seat and the gear shift.**

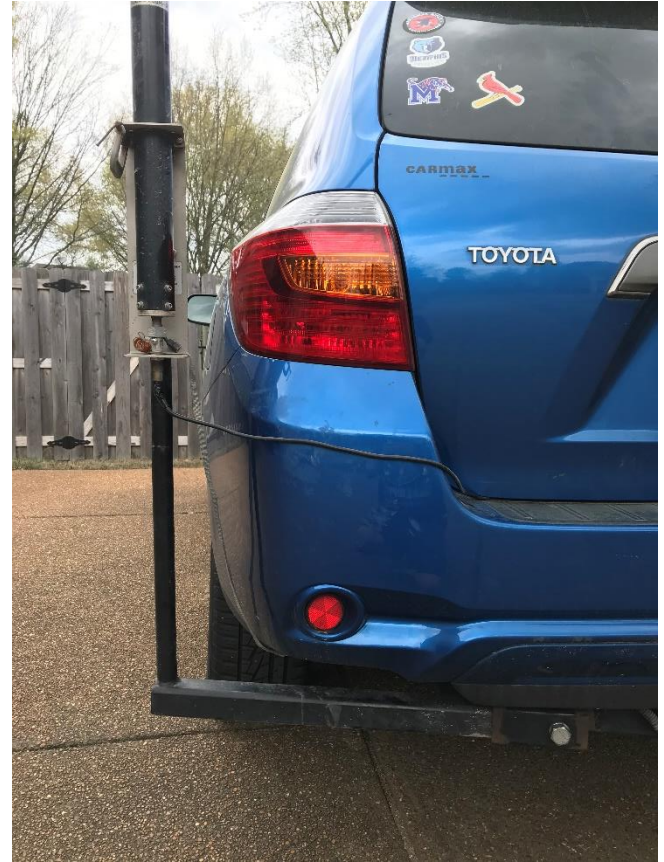
**Mic is not in picture, but lays by my side under armrest for quick draw!**



**Antenna is Tarheel 400 (the big one). It is a motorized screwdriver antenna that I can tune on all bands 80-10M. It is mounted to the left rear of vehicle so I can utilize the rear hatch without having to remove antenna.**

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I had a machine shop attach a small attachment bar to my hitch so that I can mount my "L" shaped mount into it. Then attached my Tarheel antenna high up on the "L" to get antenna as high above roofline as I could.



I get well-deserved grief regarding the C-clamp holding my antenna together. It is even bent now so I can never get it off! Hi!

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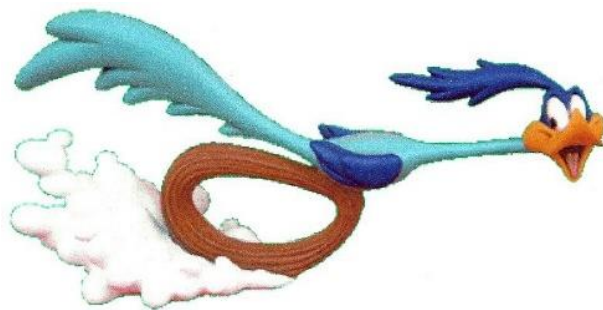
You KNOW it's gonna be a great day when you crack those breakfast eggs and end up with THIS:



W4SIG breakfast, 3/22/20



Kerry-W4SIG





# MARAC National Convention

October 25-26-27, 2020

Portland, OR

## Looking Forward to a Gathering !

At this point (mid-March), we all hope the extreme restrictions on gatherings and travel will be lifted well before our National Convention in October 2020 in Portland Oregon. Stay healthy and plan your trip. I'm using this "quiet time" to fill registration packets and get procedures in place. Those raffle tickets are going into envelopes with YOUR name on them!

**BREAKING NEWS:** Banquet meal choices in detail! The three entrees' specifics are here. On the registration page you get to choose Beef, Fish, or Vegetarian. Now more details are available. You can change your choice if you have already registered, just send me an email.

- Beef Dinner: Marinated Flank Steak, adobo roasted potatoes, roasted vegetables, roasted garlic demi (all gluten free)
- Fish Dinner: Herb Roasted Pacific Cod, baby red potatoes, roasted vegetables, romesco and scallion sauce (all gluten free)
- Vegetarian Dinner: Quinoa and Brown Rice Cabbage Rolls, roasted tomatillo sauce, roasted vegetables (all gluten free and vegan)
- All dinners include
  - Northwest Kale Salad: spinach, kale, roasted ales, grapes, toasted walnuts, currants, lemon Dijon mustard dressing
  - Chocolate Cake: rich chocolate ganache cake, raspberry sauce, fresh raspberries
  - Beverage: regular coffee at the table, and decaf coffee, herbal tea and iced tea upon request

Now, don't those choices sound better than some of the shelter-in-place meals you are making right now? Something to look forward to → please register for the National Convention.

The convention will be at the Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach, Portland Oregon.

Website: <http://ag6v.com/MARAC/index.html> RV hookups are available nearby for those so inclined.

Registrations – more than 3/4 way to filling the Early Bird Registration. You can see who is registered at <http://ag6v.com/MARAC/register.html>



The GRAND PRIZE has been purchased...  
an Elecraft KX3 Pack, assembled (key not included).

*(Thank you Elecraft for the discount.)*

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**DEADLINES:**

- Hotel Discount ends Oct. 2nd, 2020.
- Banquet choices must be final by Oct. 19th, 2020.
  - Early Bird Prizes - first 20 paid registrations received from licensed operators will be entered to a special drawing  
(up to 15 now – mid March)
- Early Bird XYL Prize - all non-licensed people who enter along with the first 20 paid licensed operators will be entered to a special, separate drawing

Room reservations must be made no later than Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 to get the MARAC discounted rate. Phone (503) 283-4466 or reserve a room via the link on the website at <http://ag6v.com/MARAC/hotel.html> Be sure to get a room for Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup>, for after the banquet!

This event is being organized by Donna Hinshaw, AG6V, Pacific Region Director. Please direct all questions to her at [ag6v at arrl dot net](mailto:ag6v@arrl.net) And, check out the website: <http://www.ag6v.com/MARAC/index.html>

**ENJOY THE ANTICIPATION!**



**Donna-AG6V**

## *2020 Michigan Mini Cancelled*

After a year of hard work to organize another fantastic Michigan Mini MARAC convention in Traverse City in April, Ed K8ZZ had to make the inevitable decision to cancel the event due to the current pandemic. We stress that the health of our friends is of utmost importance. All the more excuse to spend time playing radio from home!! Make lemonade out of lemons, as they say....

Ed is working to make sure that the hotel cancels all reservations that were made under our block of discounted rooms. However, it is advisable to call the hotel directly to ensure that yours has indeed been cancelled.

Looking forward to the 2021 Michigan Mini!! (See article below regarding the 2021 shindig)

## *2021 (next year) Michigan Mini*

I hope this finds everyone healthy and in good spirits. We will be gathering information for the 2021 Michigan MINI soon. Everyone should have received a refund of their registration fee. Ed has contacted the resort about the contract for next year. We will keep you informed about next year as things progress.

"73" Dorie



# Just for FUN!

Kerry-W4SIG

And to think I was here right before the world started to end.... should have self-quarantined here!



Honeymoon Beach, St John, USVI

# DATELINE CW

BY Ed, KN4Y

Hail to thee, CW county hunters, may the bands never falter.

When my age number went from 7 to, 8 all hell broke loose in my nervous system. All systems went to half-mast resulting in a visit to the hospital. As I write this all systems are back to 85 percent. But, darn it, my planned trip to the MARAC convention in Portland was great until the Doctor said is currently out of my future travel plans. Maybe next year the Michigan Mini will not be on the same week as the Florida QSO party.

I hear Gator's 4X4 as he downshifts and slides to a stop against the recycled railroad tie. Gator slides out of the cab carrying a white cardboard container, stops at the mailbox, grabs the mail, and enters the radio shack tosses the mail on the desk. "Good morning Dude, you are looking a lot fresher." Gator opens the cardboard container and hands me a supersize latte. "Thanks Gator I needed this." We sip our lattes.

"Dude I see on the computer that you worked Sir Kerry, W4SIG, as he was driving around Texas, there has got to be a good reason a county hunter leaves the Volunteer State to go to a Lone Star State." Gator sips his latte. I laugh, "I am not sure Kerry was driving, he was on a mission to receive the prestigious MARAC Mobile Diamond award along with the worked all 30-meter and worked all CW award. He ran 128 Texas counties and 28 Arkansas counties. A more detailed report by Kerry will be forthcoming and probably more accurate." We grin and sip our lattes.

"Dude I see that the COVID-19 virus has resulted in the Michigan MARAC Mini, scheduled for April 23-25 in Traverse City, Michigan to be CANCELLED." I shake my head yes, "The Southern Bowling Tournament in Baton Rouge I was scheduled to bowl has met the same fate." Gator looks concerned, "Dude do you think you should operate mobile in the Georgia and Florida QSO parties?" "I will know more when the QSO party date approaches. I doubt you can contact the virus sending and receiving CW." We have a good laugh.

"Gator check my Wisconsin and Oklahoma QSO party logs, after I got home from the hospital I was told to rest. What a better way to rest than working a State QSO party?" Gator sips his latte then turns around, "Dude You logged 42 QSO's in the Wisconsin QSO party and worked three mobiles none of which are MARAC members. You logged 54 QSO's in the Oklahoma QSO party and worked four mobiles, with Bob, N4CD, the only MARAC member." I give Gator the high sign as we sip out lattes. "Gator check out my Virginia QSO party log. "

Gator loads the Virginia QSO party module on the computer, "You done good Dude, you worked 50 QSO's and 35 Virginia counties. I cannot tell if you worked any mobiles." I shake my head no, "Yes Gator I was able to rest as I sat and sat until the QSO party ended. It was a 40 and 80-meter QSO party." "Dude I saw your truck at the senior center, what were you doing there?"

Gator's cell phone goes CQ, CQ, CQ and Gator answers. Dude I must get back to the plant, there are medical people there to check the employees for the COVID-19 virus. He is gone like a sailboat in a hurricane. I hear him yell, rest in peace Kenny Rogers. as he roars off, I hear the thud of a successful Kamikaze squirrel.

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Staying inside in April, what to do? Be in good spirits there are nine State QSO parties, with 749 counties up for grabs, to keep you busy. Nebraska with 93 counties, Louisiana with 64 counties (Parishes), Mississippi with 82 counties, Missouri with 115 counties, New Mexico with 33 counties, North Dakota with 53 counties, Georgia with 159 counties, Michigan with 83 counties and close out the month Florida with 67 counties. I plan to operate mobile in the Georgia and Florida QSO parties. (may change) Want some across the border radio operating-join in the Ontario QSO party.

Hey State Park dudes, there was almost a Florida State Parks on the Air but became victim to COVID-19. The Texas State Parks on the Air. Park in a park and spark the airways. There is also, just to mention a few contests, the CQMM DX Contest, and our future the ARRL Rookie Roundup on SSB.

### ***BREAKING NEWS***

Gator found this Federal Government notice on April 1 in my mailbox almost too late to get into the newsletter. It is a notice by the U.S. Government that a bill by the House is being considered that changes a county name to a graphic stock image because many county names do not make sense, and some cannot be pronounced or spelled by the youngsters. The argument is the name of the county does not always represent the local culture. The example given is Orange County in the State of Vermont, there is no orange industry, and this discriminates against the maple syrup industry.

The proposed law is schedule for considering on April first.

There was a big argument against Butt county in Georgia. This discriminates again elbows and ankles. More can be found somewhere in the congressional record. Images of graphic stock are not for county identification, vote to keep the current county names. Make your voice count. I am exhausted time for a nap.

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## **Election Information**

**AB7NK – Mary  
Election Coordinator**

MARAC 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter voting will be open Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Remember, you will be voting for activity during the months of January, February and March. All MARAC members in good standing will receive an email directly from Simply Voting with a link and password for your ballot. Please follow the instructions once you have gone to the voting page.

If you are a NEW member or are REJOINING MARAC after a lapse in membership, you will NOT be eligible to vote 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 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 Look up to determine your MARAC Expiration Date.

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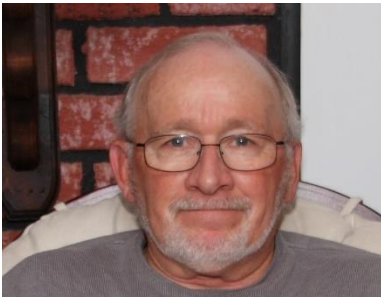
The following awards will be voted on.

- CW & SSB Mobile of the Year
- CW & SSB Net Assist of the Year
- Team of the Year

Nominations for the 2020 South Central and North Central District Directors are now closed. Both NF0N, Mike, North Central Director and KC5QCB, Janet, South Central Director have agreed to continue with another term. Since there were no other nominees, an election will not be necessary.

For those who may have forgotten and for new members, an election was held in June 2019 for all positions to be sure the bylaws have been followed. Prior to that election, several positions were appointed until the end of a term. To date, all current MARAC board members have been elected by the membership.

I'd like to introduce or re-introduce, whatever the case may be, the District Directors for both the North Central and South Central Districts. Thank you, Mike and Janet, for your dedication and hard work during the last term.



**North Central Director  
Mike Nickolaus, NF0N**

First licensed in 1964 as WN0KGD, then WA0KGD and NF0N in 1984. Achieved USA-CA #53 in 1971 and 30 years later started County Hunting again and have now completed 5<sup>th</sup> time, Bingo III, CW, 5 Star, Masters Gold, Digital and Masters Platinum. Member of ARRL, QCWA, ISSB, OM, 10-X, ARCI, A1-Op, CwOps and MARAC R-1541

Attend the Dayton Hamvention each year as the Forum Moderator for Bicycle Mobile Hams of America. Have been Chairman of the 3900 Club Hamboree 5 years and attend many Hamfests and Conventions. Section Traffic manager for Nebraska and hold a number of ARRL appointments. Have been active for nearly 60 years and hold DXCC, 5BWAS, WPX and numerous awards for QSO parties, contests and others. Contesting also provides many counties.

Married 59 years, 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Retired from the IBM Corporation and Tyson Foods, now drive School Bus part time to provide for new Ham toys, bicycles and County Hunting trips.

Although I enjoy all of my Ham Radio activities, County Hunting provides the most enjoyment with numerous mobile trips, conventions and mini's providing the opportunity to meet other County Hunters. Attended the first three County Conventions in 1969-1971 and four of the last five recent events.

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Helped establish the Independent County Hunters Net in its early days and attended initial meetings for the beginnings of MARAC.

Working with the MARAC Board and District Directors over the last three years, I believe a number of positive changes have been made. I would like to continue to work with MARAC members and the Board to implement further changes to improve County Hunting and MARAC. My Door is always open, and I would like to hear your input on how we can improve MARAC.

I feel my leadership and organizational skills can benefit MARAC and ask for your support as a candidate for North Central Director of MARAC in the upcoming May 2020 election.

*Mike Nickolaus - NF0N*



**South Central Director  
Janet Camron, KC5QCB**

Just a short updated bio to let you know that I have decided to run for the South Central Director position. As most of you know I stepped up at the convention in Kansas City to fill the open position. Now it is up for election. I feel that we have a great team in place, and I would like to continue the great work we have accomplished so far.

I enjoy county hunting and though I am not on the air much at home I look forward to our road trips to give out the counties to all of you. First licensed in 1995 I found county hunting after getting my general in 2004. I've been hooked ever since.

73's See you on the air.

*Janet Camron – KC5QCB*

### **Voting Schedule for 2020 Awards**

Mobile and Net Assist Awards for 2020 will be based on **11 months of activity, July 2019 thru May 2020**. This change is being made in order for the mobile and net assist awards to be included with CHOTY Award during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Voting. This will also enable the awards to be announced at the July board meeting.

Quarter 1	July, August, September	Voting in October 2019
Quarter 2	October, November, December	Voting in January 2020
Quarter 3	January, February, March	Voting in April 2020
Quarter 4	April & May	Voting in June 2020

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Thanks to all for participating in recognizing all the dedicated mobiles and individuals who assist with spotting and relays during a mobiles run.



Mary, AB7NK- MARAC Election Coordinator

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## Awards Committee

Ron-N5MLP

### **Self-credit: Start Dates, Awards to Which It Applies, Etc.**

Recently, a post on the K3IMC forum asked what the start date was for use of “self-credit” in MARAC awards. There is not a single “start date” for all of the different awards to which that concept applies. The term self-credit basically pertains to an operator doing something which allows him/her to gain credit for an award need they have in a county. One award that has been in effect since at least 1986 is the Ran All State award which relies on operators to go to each county in state to qualify for a transmit contact from the county. There is no listed “start date” for this award in the rules but it could be said this is an example of earning self-credit for an award need.

A group of “progressive” awards were approved to be added to the Award rules between 1994 and 2015 that each allowed operators who held certain prior award levels to make contact with each other and receive “self-credit” for the award in the county they were transmitting from when they made a Valid Contact with another operator who also held the same prior level award. The specific awards in this group were: Master Gold, Master Platinum, Mobile Diamond, and Double Diamond. Each of those awards have a specified “Start Date” for the award which are all different (as shown later in this article). The wording does not refer to the term “self-credit” but does indicate that “both operators can take credit for both counties” involved in a Valid Contact which result in self-credit for the county either operator is transmitting from. Note: a) the wording that allowed self-credit in each award in this group was part of the original wording for each award, and b) the start date of each of these awards may not be the date an operator becomes eligible to start claiming self-credit based on other rule requirements for that award.

In 2017, rules were modified for 13 existing awards to allow self-credit for those awards to be obtained by an operator who used mobile or portable operation to transmit a county for benefit of other operators. This was done to promote more mobile/portable activity and to try to prevent deterioration of interest in the hobby due to: a) the gradual reduction of members, and b) decreasing mobile activity due to age, health status, gas prices, and

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the onset of poorer propagation. Some members indicated they did not wish to take “self-credit” for the counties they transmitted from so it is listed as “Optional” for these 13 awards. However, Logger 1 currently applies self-credit automatically and there is not an option in Logger currently to “opt out” of receiving the credit. The start date for being able to claim self-credit in each of these 13 awards is 2/16/2017.

Below are details on each of the awards covered in the previous two paragraphs above for reference. I intend to put this in a separate section of the award rules document under the defined term “Self-credit” in the near future so it will be easier to find all of the awards to which it applies.

### **Progressive Awards and Their Requirements for Self-credit**

- 1) Master Gold - Start date: 6/2/1994
- 2) Master Platinum – Start date: 2/12/2003
- 3) Mobile Diamond – Start date: 9/15/2010
- 4) Double Diamond – Start date: 9/15/2015 (and after the applicant has received the Mobile Diamond Award).

Specific requirements for allowing self-credit in each of the above awards vary and were imposed long ago when those awards were written. A summary of the self-credit rules for each of these awards is provided below:

a) For Master Gold:

- All contacts must be made after the applicant has earned at least one Star and the Bingo award.
- Each contact must be made with another operator who has also earned at least one Star and the Bingo award.
- Both counties involved in a Valid Contact may be counted by both operators.
- Self-credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.

b) For Master Platinum:

- Valid Contacts with Master Gold Award holders made before the applicant receives the Master Gold Award are good for the county where the Master Gold Award holder is located.
- After the applicant receives the Master Gold Award, both operators may count both counties.
- Self-credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.
- The two Master Gold Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time a Valid Contact is made.

c) For Mobile Diamond:

- After the date of the applicant’s Master Platinum Award, the applicant must make contacts with holders of the Master Platinum Award in All USA Counties.
- Both Master Platinum operators involved in the contact may count both counties toward the Mobile Diamond Award.
- Self-credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.

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- For each Valid Contact, the two Master Platinum Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time the Valid Contact is made.

d) For Double Diamond:

- Applicant must make contacts with other holders of the Mobile Diamond Award in ALL USA Counties.
- Both Mobile Diamond holder operators involved in each Double Diamond contact may count both counties toward the Double Diamond Award.
- Self-credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.
- For each Valid Contact, the two Mobile Diamond Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time the Valid Contact is made.

### **Awards Modified to Allow Self-credit Beginning on February 16, 2017**

1. Bingo – The Master County Hunter Award
2. Bingo Cinco
3. Five Star
4. Single Band
5. Star XX
6. USA – Call Sign Combo
7. USA – CW
8. USA – Digital
9. USA – Prefix (USA-PA)
10. USA – SSB
11. Worked All USA Counties (2<sup>nd</sup> time to Nth time)
12. YL
13. YL/OM Team

Note:

- a) Self-credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.
- b) “Bingo – Natural” was originally authorized to be eligible for self-credit but was later rescinded due to the original intent for that particular award to not allow “wild cards” or other substitutions for natural Bingo credit.
- c) In order to take self-credit for a particular need in a county you transmit from, you must be able to give that credit to anyone else you work (e.g., if your callsign starts with a K prefix, you can only take credit for a K prefix need in the county you are transmitting from. You cannot earn self-credit for callsigns beginning with A, N, or W).

(continued)

Awards Issued from February 21 to March 23, 2020

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Number	Call	Date of Last Contact	Last County Count:	Number
<b>None issued this period</b>				KB6UF	11/22/2019	1575	2
				W4SIG	2/28/2020	600	31

*MARAC Awards Committee*

N5MLP – Ron Clift  
MARAC Awards Manager

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## MARAC Silent Keys

This month it is with sadness and fond memories that we remember the following Silent Keys:

(If you have information that should be included here, please contact W4SIG)

- **Stan Heinsma, VE1BES:** Roadrunner 50 Counties, Service Award, 5 Star, Bingo II, WAC 5 Times, SK Jan '18
- **Ron Moorefield, W8ILC:** USCA #398, attender of MARAC national conventions

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## County Trivia

Jack-WD4OIN

The largest county in the contiguous USA is San Bernardino County CA at 20,105.32 square miles.

It's bigger than the following states: Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Hawaii and Maryland.

# Is that N1API installing a new inverted Vee?

Or is he just practicing social distancing?



## MARAC Treasurer's Report

Bill-K0DEQ, Treasurer

FEB 20, 2019 THOURGH MARCH 19, 2020

Beginning Account Balance	\$20,983.79
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Income:

Savings Account Interest	\$
Awards Income	
Misc Income	
Membership Income	268.23
Logger Distribution Income	

Total Income	\$ 268.23
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Expenses:

Awards Expenses	\$ 59.85
Misc. Expenses	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)	

Total expenses	\$ 59.85
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(continued)

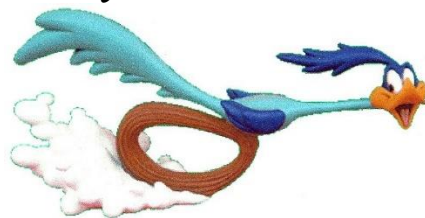
Net Income Less Expenses		208.38
Cash Balance		\$21,192.17
Checking Account Balance	\$ 4,244.87	
Savings Account Balance	_16,947.30	
Total all accounts		\$21,192.17

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6084.00, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$15,108.17



**Bill-KODEQ, MARAC Treasurer**

## The County Line ROADRUNNER



*“A Roadrunner Is A Very Fast Bird”*

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

### Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Leadership Team

#### Board of Directors

**President:** Ed Eklin, K8ZZ

1426 SW Summit Woods Dr Apt 3, Topeka, KS 66615  
231-649-4747, [ed.eklin@gmail.com](mailto:ed.eklin@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:** Kraig Pritts, KA2LHO

6637 NE 5th Lane, Ocala, FL 34470  
315-877-4822, [kraig@kdpritts.com](mailto:kraig@kdpritts.com)

**Secretary:** Brent Schaefer, K9MIX

441 Lazy Branch Dr, Wausau, WI 54401  
715-571-5498, [k9mix@charter.net](mailto:k9mix@charter.net)

**Treasurer:** Bill Morgan, K0DEQ

12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401  
573-465-5405, [billmorgan1@centurylink.net](mailto:billmorgan1@centurylink.net)

**Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$10.00 per year, check or money order.**

**Dues may also be paid via Pay-Pal and directed to [billmorgan1@centurylink.net](mailto:billmorgan1@centurylink.net)**

**Great Lakes Director:** Darl Deeds, NA8W

8753 Township Rd 48, Findlay, OH 45840  
419-421-1533, [na8w@arrl.net](mailto:na8w@arrl.net)

**North Central Director:** Mike Nickolaus, NF0N

316 East 32nd St, South Sioux City, NE 68776  
402-494-6070, [nf0n@arrl.net](mailto:nf0n@arrl.net)

**Northeast Director:** Al Kaiser, N1API

194 Glen Hills Rd, Meriden CT 06451  
[n1api@cox.net](mailto:n1api@cox.net)

**South Central Director:** Janet Camron, KC5QCB

7641 Gladiola, San Angelo, TX 76901,  
325-812-3234, [kc5qcb@suddenlink.net](mailto:kc5qcb@suddenlink.net)

**Pacific Director:** Donna Hinshaw, AG6V

316 SE Pioneer Way #172, Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
707-235-3717, [ag6v@whidbey.com](mailto:ag6v@whidbey.com)

**Southeast Director:** Kerry Long, W4SIG

1854 Newton Nook, Collierville, TN 38017  
901-331-1881, [kerrylong@comcast.net](mailto:kerrylong@comcast.net)

**Immediate Past President:** Vacant

#### Appointed Positions

**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](mailto:pyasson@pacifier.com)

**Historian:** Vacant

**Newsletter Editor:** Kerry Long, W4SIG

1854 Newton Nook, Collierville, TN 38017  
901-331-1881, [kerrylong@comcast.net](mailto:kerrylong@comcast.net)

**Sunshine Coordinator:** Pat Reiner, KM6QF

16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436  
213-999-0100, [lovedoxies@aol.com](mailto:lovedoxies@aol.com)

**Webmaster:** Donald Flynn, K3IMC

241 Baywood Cir, LaGrange, GA 30240  
706-302-0725, [k3imc@bellsouth.net](mailto:k3imc@bellsouth.net)

**Custodian, Club Call:** Mike Nickolaus, NF0N

316 East 32nd St, South Sioux City, NE 68776  
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**Election Coordinator:** Mary Vince, AB7NK

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**MARAC General Counsel:** Bill Morgan, K0DEQ

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**Computer Data Manager:** Gene A Olig Sr, KD9ZP

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