



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume XLX

December 2020

Number 12

Thoughts from the Board

Mike-NF0N, North Central Director

This is Mike and I am your MARAC North Central Director. Welcome from the hinterlands of Northern Nebraska. Yes, we get snow and Nebraska is NOT flat.

We have been married 60 years and have 10 great grandchildren, 4 grandchildren and 3 children. I have been licensed since 1964 as WA0KGD and now NF0N. Have been retired from several positions from IBM and Tyson Foods, all in the Computer/IT positions.

I happened across some County Hunters in 1966 during the Nebraska Centennial. They all needed my card and county and I was glad to work them. That started me County Hunting and 5 years later I had worked them all and earned the CQ USA-CA Award. Great, I was done and now what do I do? MARAC was in it's initial beginning, no 2nd time or more awards at that time. So I took a 30 year hiatus from County Hunting until 2001 when I caught the bug again and have been working counties and awards since then.

Many of you have been there, worked 'em all, lost interest, done other things, but many of you have come back and are enticed again with the awards and camaraderie of others. Even with the terrible conditions the last few years, many of you have taken trips, special events, parks and more. I have been hearing some of you working other modes, FT8, FT4, JT65, RTTY Contest, DX contests, all trying to work counties even with lousy conditions. I have also been hearing some new county

hunters that are also well known DX'ers, contesters. We welcome all of you to join in the fun and future of county hunting.

How many of you have been going through your old paper logs, contest logs, etc. looking for those counties for new modes, bands and digital contacts? I have, and there are many to be found. They all count and can be added to your totals for the County Challenge listings.

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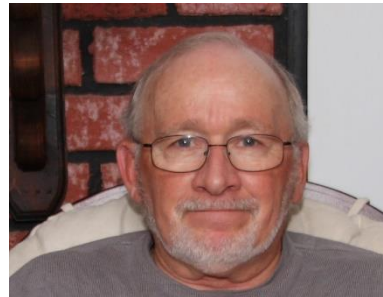
14.....TRIVIA, SILENT KEYS, OSO PARTIES

As part of the leadership team of Officers and Directors, we have been working together to ensure the future of MARAC will be viable and always want to hear from you for your recommendations and assistance. MARAC has many members with excellent skills that can be helpful in moving MARAC forward to the future.

Please contact your MARAC Director if you would like to work with the leadership team.

73 and many counties as the bands continue to improve.

Mike, NF0N, MARAC North Central Director



**NOTICE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MONDAY, DEC 7, 8PM EST
SEE MARAC.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS**

Defining Common County Hunting Terms

By Kerry, W4SIG

It has come to my attention that sometimes we take our hobby's slang, or abbreviations for granted. While some Old Timers are used to utilizing these terms, others are not. So here is my first attempt to list some of the more common ones with explanations of each. I am sure I will forget some, so please let me know which ones I miss and I will include them in a subsequent article.

WBOW- Whole Ball of Wax This term is slang for "working all 3077". So, for example, if you have 99 counties to work to finish all 3077 counties for a MARAC award you essentially have 99 to go for the "WBOW". This term does NOT apply when you are approaching the last county needed for a particular state (see LC below). Only when you are close to all 3077 should you use the term WBOW.

LC- This term stands for Last County in a *state*. So if you tell someone your LC in SC is Oconee that means that you have only Oconee Cty left to finish up the state of South Carolina.

LC1- This is a MARAC Awards term. An LC-1 is an award you can easily apply for on the MARAC.ORG website when you work a mobile to finish up a STATE. These awards are popular,

FREE, and a tremendous way to say “thank you” to the mobile station that helped you finish up a state. More details can be found in the Awards section of the webpage.

LC2- This is a MARAC Awards term. An LC2 is an award you can easily apply for on the MARAC.ORG website when you work a mobile to finish up the WHOLE BALL OF WAX. These can result in the mobile receiving either a nice certificate or a plaque. Check in advance with the mobile to see if they have extra wall space for a plaque or just prefer the certificate.

LIST – This is a term used by either SSB or CW mobiles when the pileups are intense. In an effort to make out the calls of dozens of stations when they are all calling at once a mobile may say “LIST”. What this means is that the mobile is going to sit back and write down a list of callsigns as they are heard and then when all gets quiet will go down the LIST and call them back one-by-one. This makes it a lot easier for everyone involved, especially the poor mobile who otherwise may hear an overload of callsigns all on top of one another. It also is very advantageous to the weaker stations who otherwise might have to wait til the very end of the county run to be heard. So....if you hear a mobile say “LIST”, take your time, spread out with others, and find a quiet opening to give your call. The mobile may take a short list of 3 or so calls at a time, or may take a dozen or so if folks cooperate and really spread out. LIST is a very good thing, just be aware of the mobiles that use it and take advantage of the opportunity of a low-stress pileup.

QSP – In CW this basically means “Relay”. If a mobile asks “QSP?” that means he/she is asking for a station to volunteer and relay in the weaker stations at the end of a county run. If you hear a mobile say “QSP?” please consider jumping in and volunteering. It would make others very happy and also is what being a “Mobile Assistant” is all about.

If a fixed station sends “QSP” that means they are pleading for a stronger station to lend them a hand and relay them in to the mobile. If you hear this and would like to help, simply wait for the mobile to say “QRZ?” and reply with “QSP”, which basically means you hear someone who needs a relay.

How does a relay work, you may ask? The best way to learn is to just listen to others do it first. Here is how a typical successful relay on CW would work. Example has K0DEQ offering assistance to a weak station such as W1ABC:

K0DEQ: “Ani need QSP?”

Weak station: “W1ABC”

K0DEQ indicates to weak station that mobile is ready to listen for signal report : “W1ABC RST”

Weak station sends report: “33N 33N 33N K”

K0DEQ indicates to mobile that weak station has completed transmission: “K”

Mobile station sends what he/she heard: “33N”

K0DEQ verifies the report heard was correct: “R”

Mobile station responds with their signal report to the Weak Station: “Also 33N 33N 33N”

K0DEQ indicates to Weak station that mobile has completed sending RST: “K”

Weak station replies by sending the signal report they heard: “33N”

K0DEQ responds to weak station and mobile that contact was good: “GUD”

K0DEQ then asks if any other stations need a relay; “Any need QSP?”

And so forth until there are no more stations needing relays.

So if you need a relay, ask for one “QSP” near the end of the run and hopefully someone who has a good copy on the mobile will jump in and assist. If you hear a mobile ask for relays “QSP?” consider

jumping in and helping. After all, we are all in this together and helping each other out is what makes this a very fun and fulfilling hobby.

SPOT – This is a popular one. As many of us know, mobile county hunting today lives or dies by the notification that they are on the air in a particular county. This notification is called the “SPOT”. County hunters rely upon the CH.W6RK.COM county hunting spotting page. Monitoring these spots help fixed stations follow mobiles as they activate counties. However, what if you hear a mobile station running who hasn’t been spotted? By all means jump on the spotting page and spot them. It is not hard. All you have to enter is your call, the mobile’s call, the frequency they are on, and the County, State. EASY. Any mobile will tell you that the difference between being spotted and not being spotted is the difference between us all having fun with a successful mobile run versus a mobile who has little to no contacts and is likely to turn off the radio. Today many mobiles can spot themselves using their smart phones by doing the exact same thing you can do from home on the CH.W6RK.COM website. But it sure is easier on a mobile who is driving, navigating, and operating to know others will do this task for them. Also remember that mobiles that often spot themselves get into rare counties THAT YOU NEED that are rare because there is little to no cell phone coverage available for them to spot themselves. Those self-spotting mobiles rely upon YOU to get them spotted. This is another element that is critical toward being a recognized Mobile Assistant.

So, if you hear a mobile that is not spotted, please do so. If you hear a mobile say “PLEASE SPOT” that means they are asking YOU to please spot them. The proper way to handle this is to say “Will Spot” or “Spotted” once you have completed the spot. Don’t be afraid that someone else may be spotting them as well. There is no crime in being “spotted” more than once! Mobile stations will love you!

LC- For confusion sake we use “LC” for several purposes, see LC for “last county” above. Now for the second use of “LC”: At the end of a CW mobile running a county he/she may send “LC”. That stands for “Last Call”. If there are no responses the mobile is moving on either to another band or another county. If you hear LC and you need the county don’t hesitate!! Jump on in with your call or you will miss it.

A5NN- During a CW mobile run when a signal report is preceded with the letter “A” that stands for “Also”. So, for example a mobile station sends your signal report as “33N” you can respond with “A33N”, meaning you are sending back an identical signal report. This is especially helpful if the signals are weak or there is a lot of QSB (fading of signals). Sometimes it is easier to copy a letter “A” than it is the 33N or 22N that follows. Remember, the letter “A” is not required, it simply makes it easier for the other station to know that your responding signal report is identical. Too many times lately I have heard a station respond with “A” before a completely different signal report that they were sent! What this really means is an invalid contact. So use “A” before a signal report back to the mobile if your report is identical to theirs. If you are responding with a totally different report do NOT put “A” in front of your report.

Hope these help. I am sure there are more. If you have anything that is confusing to you please let me know and I will include it in a future article.

Home and Mobile Shacks

This month featuring W4SIG/KP2 Mobile

November seemed like a good time to get out of the stress at home and head to the beautiful US Virgin Islands. Part of my plan was to operate from the rare region of VI during the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Equipment was ready to set up at one of the pavilions at Maho Beach on St John. A Buddipole cranked up all the way to 20 feet was the antenna I had ready to go with my Kenwood TS430 and it's mighty 100 Watts of power. Then the rains came and unfortunately washed all my plans away. I threw up my hamstick on top of the car and tried to operate mobile with the rain pounding on top of the roof. After a while it was obvious that I needed to throw in my wet towel and enjoy the island's many other beauties. Although playing in the contest was washed out, it still was a wonderful trip with the added surprises of many waterfalls and rainbows! Here are a few pics from the trip. Maybe next year!



No, that is not a palm tree antenna on the roof, although it looks like it!



Kerry – W4SIG/KP2



Deep Thought of the Month

Courtesy of AI, N1API



Final Countdown

Kerry-W4SIG

The following MARAC Members need less than 10 counties for the “Whole Ball of Wax”, also known as WBOW. Let’s give them a hand! If you have less than 10 to go in the entire country for any MARAC Award please send those needs to Kerry, W4SIG, for inclusion in this new monthly article. Please keep me updated as these lists dwindle so we have accurate info for mobiles that want to help you out.

K0DEQ/WBOW 2ND TIME

IN: Fulton, **SC:** Williamsburg

K2MF/WBOW ALL CW 20METERS

GA: Habersham, Jenkins, Montgomery, Pickens, Screven, Toombs, Upson

N9JF/WBOW ALL CW 1st Time

TX: Starr

W4SIG/WBOW N PREFIX

ID: Teton **MA:** Nantucket

W4SIG/WBOW W PREFIX

AK: 1st, 2nd, **HI:** Kauai, **IN:** Spencer, **NH:** Coos, Sullivan, **NJ:** Hudson

W4SIG/WBOW 1X3 CALLSIGNS

AK: 2ND, 3RD, 4TH

W4SIG/WBOW 1X2 CALLSIGNS

AL: Lamar, **ME:** Aroostook, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, **MA:** Dukes

W4SIG/WBOW ALL CW 3RD TIME

HI: Kalawao, **NY:** Chenango, **WI:** Wood

W4SIG/WBOW 40METERS

CA: Amador, Mariposa, San Francisco, Ventura

W4SIG/WBOW BINGO III

CA: Contra Costa, San Francisco, Ventura, **HI:** Kalawao, **PA:** Montour

N4RS – WBOW 40m Using CW Only

AK: 2nd District

N4RS – WBOW Bingo 3 CW Only

NC: Mitchell, Yancey

KC3X – WBOW 40 Meters

ID: Camas, **MT:** Daniels, Pondera, Prairie, **OR:** Benton, Sherman, Wheeler, **UT:** Kane, Tooele, **WA:** Jefferson

NN9K – WBOW Masters Gold CW Only

GA: Muscogee, **WV:** Upshur

N1API – WBOW BINGO III

MA: Suffolk

N5MLP – WBOW A Prefix

AR: Arkansas, **LA:** Grant, Vermillion, Vernon, **MS:** Issaquena, **TN:** Hardeman, Houston, Marshall, **VA:** Mathews, **WA:** Garfield

N5MLP—WBOW Bingo IV

AK: First, Second, Third, Fourth, **CA:** Lake, **HI:** Kalawao, **WA:** Columbia, Garfield

N5MLP – WBOW 5th Time

AK: First J.D., Second J.D., Third J.D.

N0KV – WBOW CW

GA: Greene, Warren, **ID:** Owyhee, **NC:** Graham Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, **SD:** Buffalo, Jackson, **WI:** Rusk

N0KV—WBOW K Prefix

CO: Summit, **IA:** Hardin, **ID:** Teton, **NE:** Nance, **SD:** Haakon, **WV:** McDowell, **WY:** Goshen

K4YT -WBOW 4th Time

HI: Kalawao

K4YT – WBOW All SSB

AK: First JD, **CA:** Humboldt, **NH:** Belknap

K4YT – WBOW 1x2 Calls

LA: Assumption, **MS:** Jefferson

K4YT – WBOW Mobile to Mobile

CA: Marin, Nevada, San Joaquin, Yolo, **MD:** Calvert, **OR:** Benton, Coos

K4YT – WBOW A Prefix

MS-Holmes, Issaquena, Lafayette, Sharkey, Winston. **TN**-Perry. **VA**-Craig

K4YT – WBOW N Prefix

MA: Nantucket

K0DEQ- WBOW Bingo

AL: Bibb, Tallapoosa; **AR:** Cleburne, Independence, Stone; **GA:** Evans; **MO:** Cedar

K9MAF- WBOW USACA 1st Time (can only do CW)

IA: Cherokee, Emmet **KY:** Monroe, McLean, Owsley **MN:** Pennington

NFON – WBOW ALL CW 2nd Time

IN: Delaware, **MI:** Muskegon, Baraga

NFON—WBOW N Prefix

IA: Palo Alto, Winnebago, **ME:** Franklin, **MN:** Benton, **ND:** Griggs

Election Information

Mary-AB7NK
Election Coordinator

All MARAC members in good standing will be receiving an email from Simply Voting with instructions on how to vote for the 2nd quarter. You will be able to vote for up to two (2) individuals per question.

Voting is to be based on activity during the months of September 1, 2020 thru November 30, 2020 for the following awards.

- SSB – Mobile of the Year
- CW – Mobile of the Year
- Mobile Team of the Year
- SSB – Mobile Assist of the Year
- CW – Mobile Assist of the Year

If you have any questions regarding voting, please contact me and together we'll get the problem resolved.

**Mary-
AB7NK, MARAC
Election
Coordinator**



Awards Committee

Ron-N5MLP

Awards Issued October 25 through November 24, 2020

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Number	Call	Date of Last Contact	Last County Count:	Number
KC6AWX	9/23/2000	RAS* - FL - 1st Time	42	(None this month)			
WY0A	8/10/2019	RAS* - FL - Time	39				
K7SEN	9/24/2019	RAS* - ND - 1st Time	33				
AB7NK	9/24/2019	RAS* - ND - 1st Time	32				
WA4EEZ	9/30/2020	Bingo I	374				
KA2LHO	10/14/2020	USA-Single Band-20m-Lev 2000	1				
KA2LHO	10/14/2020	Polaris - Cliff Corne Jr.	484				
KA2LHO	10/14/2020	Gemini - Jack Scroggins	179				
K2MF	10/19/2020	WAC** - 3rd Time	260				
K5GE	10/22/2020	County Challenge - Level 21000	1				
* Ran All State							
** Worked All USA Counties							

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift
MARAC Awards Manager

MARAC Treasurer's Report

Bill-KODEQ
Treasurer

OCT 20, 2020 THROUGH NOV 19, 2020

Beginning Account Balance \$20,441.22

Income:

Savings Account Interest	\$	15.08
Awards Income		100.00
Misc Income		
Membership Income		189.26
Logger Distribution Income		40.00
Donation		
Total Income		\$344.34

Expenses:

Awards Expenses	\$	499.56
Misc. Expenses		
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)		

Total expenses \$499.56

Net Income Less Expenses		(155.22)
Cash Balance		\$20,286.00
Checking Account Balance	\$ 3,287.27	
Savings Account Balance	_16,998.73	
Total all accounts		\$20,286.00

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6,222.00, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$14,064.00



Bill KODEQ- MARAC Treasurer

County Trivia

Jack-WD4OIN

There are about 200 counties named directly or indirectly for our presidents with 31 counties named for Washington and 26 for Jefferson.

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)

KM1C- Bill Pedersen, MARAC#3207, WAC#1219. Bill was a friend to many. He was an active mobile operator who would go out of his way to help others. This was especially evident in his efforts to assist fellow member KC3X to raise funds after hurricane devastation to his home. Prayers to his family.

ON4UN- John Devoldere, MARAC#1511, USACA#417. John was famous all around the world for his DX and Contesting achievements. We was a master on the low bands, and actually published a book on Low Band antennas and DXing.

2020 State QSO Parties

Courtesy of WA7BNM

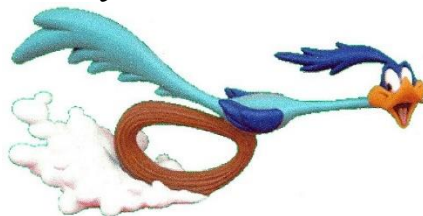
NOTE: THE 2020 STATE QSO PARTY SEASON IS COMPLETE. THE 2021 CALENDAR WILL BE OUT SOON!

State	Contest	Dates
Alabama	± Alabama QSO Party	1500Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 13, 2020
Arizona	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020
	± Arizona QSO Party	1500Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11, 2020
Arkansas	± Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, May 9 to 0200Z, May 10, 2020
California	± California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 3 to 2200Z, Oct 4, 2020

Colorado	± Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 5 to 0400Z, Sep 6, 2020
Connecticut	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2020 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2020
Delaware	± Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3, 2020
Florida	± Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26, 2020 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26, 2020
Georgia	± Georgia QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 11 to 0400Z, Apr 12, 2020
Hawaii	± Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 24, 2020
Idaho	± Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15, 2020
	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020
Illinois	± Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19, 2020
Indiana	± Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 2 to 0300Z, May 3, 2020
Iowa	± Iowa QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 19 to 0200Z, Sep 20, 2020
Kansas	± Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 29 to 0200Z, Aug 30, 2020 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 30, 2020
Kentucky	± Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, June 6 to 0200Z, Jun 7, 2020
Louisiana	± Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5, 2020
Maine	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2020 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2020
	± Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 26 to 1200Z, Sep 27, 2020
Maryland	± Maryland-DC QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 8 to 0400Z, Aug 9, 2020
Massachusetts	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2020 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2020
Michigan	± Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19, 2020
Minnesota	± Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 1, 2020
Mississippi	± Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5, 2020
Missouri	± Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0400Z, Apr 5, 2020 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 5, 2020
Montana	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020
Nebraska	± Nebraska QSO Party	1300Z, Apr 4 to 0100Z, Apr 5, 2020 and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 5, 2020
Nevada	± Nevada QSO Party	0300Z, Oct 10 to 2100Z, Oct 11, 2020
	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020
New Hampshire	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2020 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2020
	± New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0400Z, Sep 20, 2020 and 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 20, 2020
New Jersey	± New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0359Z, Sep 20, 2020
New Mexico	± New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 12, 2020
New York	± New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 17 to 0200Z, Oct 18, 2020
North Carolina	± North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 1 to 0059Z, Mar 2, 2020
North Dakota	± North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 1800Z, Apr 12, 2020
Ohio	± Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23, 2020
Oklahoma	± Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 14 to 0100Z, Mar 15, 2020 and 1400Z-2100Z, Mar 15, 2020

Oregon	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020
Pennsylvania	± Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11, 2020 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11, 2020
Rhode Island	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2020 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2020
South Carolina	± South Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 29 to 0159Z, Mar 1, 2020
South Dakota	± South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 10 to 1800Z, Oct 11, 2020
Tennessee	± Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7, 2020
Texas	± Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 12 to 0200Z, Sep 13, 2020 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 13, 2020
Utah	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020
Vermont	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3, 2020 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3, 2020
	± Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 1 to 2400Z, Feb 2, 2020
Virginia	± Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 21 to 0400Z, Mar 22, 2020 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 22, 2020
Washington	± Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20, 2020 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20, 2020
	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020
West Virginia	± West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 20 to 0400Z, Jun 21, 2020
Wisconsin	± Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16, 2020
Wyoming	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3, 2020

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

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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 treasurer@marac.org

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