



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

Donna-AG6V



By Donna Hinshaw, AG6V
Pacific Region Director

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For Western cultures, the New Year on January 1st heralds a fresh start. We bid the old year farewell, focus on the positive memories to preserve them, recall the less pleasant times and purge them from our memory while (hopefully) taking the lessons with us. Then we think of the fun and positive things we expect for the new year.

For 2021, we in MARAC can hope for:

- more and better sunspots – Bob N4CD has been sharing the positive predictions
- more great jokes to lift our spirits – Al N1API finds and shares some good ones
- more mobiles out running counties – W6RK.com shows the trend has been upwards

On a personal note, most of us at least consider making “New Year’s Resolutions.” I’m no different. My main 2021 resolution related to amateur radio comes from a 19+ hour stint in my operating chair during a contest. Indeed, that contest participation came from a 2020 Resolution: “Make a Serious Effort in a Contest”.

This being a year with many challenges and unpleasant situations, I choose a contest which I knew would be entered by a large number of people with good skills, but not with a “serious” title on the line: pileups wouldn’t be absolutely cut-throat. So I didn’t enter the ARRL Sweepstakes with an eye to win a division! The contest I chose was a “polite” contest, as contests go.

I choose an all-CW contest (because that is the mode I love) in which I wouldn’t be totally battered by my far NW QTH (meaning, not a lot of EU points to lose out on). I looked up the overall record and my state record, being a competitive person. Wow, the overall number was jaw dropping. But from someone on the East Coast – got all the EU points to be had, for sure. OK, back to the state record. So there I had my goal.

Fast forward thru the weekend, and the contest is over. My pileup call copying got better, but I won’t be entering the PileUp Contest when the next Dayton Convention occurs: I’ll leave that to you former military Radio Operators!

So, you are wondering what resolutions came out of this? Well, several. They all involve crawling around under my operating desk and disturbing some dust bunnies while moving things. It took me 12 months to put a check mark next to my 2020 resolution, so maybe I should add a 2021 resolution of “Complete My Resolutions Sooner” ??

And yes, I did get the state record, so 2021 is starting off nicely for me!
I hope your year starts off well also.

Even though you are reading this in January, it’s not too late for you all to consider some radio-related New Year’s Resolutions. Write them up and send them to our hardworking Road Runner Editor, Kerry W4SIG. It would be fun to read them.

73, Donna. AG6V





Donna-AG6V

Volunteers Needed

By Kerry W4SIG

All hands on deck!! MARAC has some open positions that we really need to fill. Ready to jump in and help out your fellow county hunters in an important role? We have a very good existing Board that is working hard to make YOUR club prosper. But we need a few more good folks. The VP position has been open for about 6 months now and really needs a name. Now, with the resignation of our Election Coordinator as of Dec 31, we would like for someone to please fill that role as well. Thank you, **Mary AB7NK**, for all your hard work in this role the last few years!!!

No experience necessary! Just a good attitude and a willingness to discuss issues that come up and help us make this organization better and better. The pay stinks, but the rewards are tremendous! PLEASE contact any board member for more details and lets get 2021 off to a great start!

County Hunter Web.org

By Kerry W4SIG

In my opinion, one of the most useful tools available to county hunters is the webpage that **Don, K3IMC** created some years ago. If you are not familiar with it the web address is simply www.countyhunterweb.org

Here you can find three main areas of Don's helpful site. The first is the **FORUM**. This is where county hunters go to either post info or read up on what is going on daily in the county hunting world. If you don't check it regularly you are missing out! Often times mobiles announce here when they are heading out on a trip. Often a question is asked with others sharing their experience and knowledge. Often announcements are made here of awards that have just been issued. You can also find out what others may be doing outside of chasing counties. Don't be afraid to post something yourself, whether in response to someone else's post, or initiating your own thought. We are all here to support one another, so jump on in! PLEASE NOTE that this is not a complaint department. Don advises to keep it positive and understanding toward others. This is good advice!

The second area you can choose from this website is the **SPECIAL NEEDS**. This is where you can look to see what others are needing to finish up a particular award in a state. YOU can also list your needs. This is very advisable and many active mobiles, myself included, always check here first before planning a mobile trip. If I am going close to one of your needs I make an effort to include it on my route. If you don't have your needs listed then you are missing out on alerting mobiles on how to help you out. Entering your needs is easy, give it a try!

The third and final section of this webpage is the **PLANNED TRIPS** area. This is where mobiles post all the fine details of an upcoming mobile trip. Look over these details and compare to your needs. Then you can follow along with the mobile on their route and pounce on those needed counties along the way.

This website is extremely valuable. Many county hunters have been using it for years. If you haven't had an opportunity to check it out lately, or ever, now is an excellent time to take advantage of such a useful tool to your county chasing endeavours!

Again...thanks so much for **Don K3IMC** for providing this extremely useful tool to all county hunters!

Recently, Don was issued a MARAC Lifetime Achievement award for this and all his other hard work for our benefit. Check out the October *RoadRunner* for all the details.

How to Receive County Alerts

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

By Kerry W4SIG

This article was in a *RoadRunner* about a year ago, but I have received several questions regarding it since then, so thought I would reprint this info...

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, but are in the next room or across the house? 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 or text 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.

NOTE: If you would rather receive your alerts as a text message (the preferred and 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!)

Of course, none of this works if a mobile is not spotted. **PLEASE SPOT YOUR MOBILES!!**

Home and Mobile Shacks

This month featuring ???

This could be you!! Please send W4SIG pictures of your radio/antenna setup. We would love for you to be featured here and show us your station. Nothing too big or too small!

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

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, **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**NC:** Graham **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

K0MAF- WBOW USACA 1st Time (can only do CW)

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

NF0N – WBOW ALL CW 2nd Time

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

NF0N—WBOW N Prefix

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

W4YDY/ WBOW CW 2ND TIME

OR: Crook, Wheeler

W4YDY/WBOW A PREFIX

MS: Oktibbeha **OH:** Putnam **PA:** Philadelphia **VA:** Amelia, King William

W4YDY/WBOW W PREFIX

AK: First J. D. S E **NY:** Essex, Montgomery **OR:** Sherman **PA:** Tioga **SC:** Union **TX:** Dickens, Runnels, Somervell **VA:** Floyd

WA3QNT—WBOW MASTERS GOLD

AK: 2nd Dist **GA:** Lee **IN:** Morgan **KY:** Mason **PA:** Bucks **TX:** Galveston **MT:** Lake, Sanders
NY: New York, Yates

Election Information

Mary-AB7NK
Election Coordinator

The following individuals have received recognition for the 2nd quarter. Calls are listed in random order. Congratulations to all.

SSB – Mobile of the Year – KC6AWX, KB6UF, WY0A, N8OYY, W4SIG, K7SEN, K8ZZ, K0DEQ, AB7NK

CW – Mobile of the Year – W5UDG, N4CD, K0DEQ, W4SIG, K8ZZ, W0GXQ, W8OP

Mobile Team of the Year – W5UDG/W5RIT, N0KV/N0DXE, KB0BA/N0XYL, W0GXQ/K8ZZ, AB7NK/K7SEN

SSB – Mobile Assist of the Year – KZ2P, K0DEQ, WY0A, KC3X, AJ5ZX, N0KV

CW – Mobile Assist of the Year – KA1JPR, K0DEQ, N0KV, KC3X

County Hunter of the Year nominations will be open soon for both SSB and CW. Check out the rules and think who you'd like to see be nominated in 2021 for these two awards. There are plenty of deserving MARAC members that could be considered for these awards. Give it some thought and send your reasons they should be considered to your district director. More info to follow next month.

The District Director positions for Southeast and Great Lakes will be open as well. If you live in either of those districts and are interested in being an active part in your club, let a board member know of your interest.

Lastly, some of you may have heard that I resigned as Election Coordinator effective 12/31/2020 for medical and personal reasons.

Neil & I would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy New Year with better conditions and no covid.

Mary – AB7NK

Awards Committee

Ron-N5MLP

Awards Issued November 27 through December 21, 2020

Awards Issued:				Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Number	Call	Date of Last Contact	Last County Count:	Number
N6PDB	9/1/2014	Big Rig - Level 1000	8	K7TM	7/24/2018	225	108
KSZZ	10/24/2020	County Challenge - Lev 18000	3				
N4RS	10/27/2020	Bingo III	43				
W08L	11/6/2020	USA-Digital - Level 1000	20				
NIAPI	11/7/2020	County Challenge - Lev 11000	4				
N9JF	12/19/2020	USA - CW - 1st Time	160				
* Ran All State							
** Worked All USA Counties							

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift
MARAC Awards Manager

MARAC Treasurer's Report

Bill-KODEQ
Treasurer

NOV 20, 2020 THROUGH DEC 19, 2020

Beginning Account Balance \$20,287.00

Income:

Savings Account Interest	\$	
Awards Income	2.00	
Misc Income		
Membership Income	39.12	
Logger Distribution Income	18.81	
Donation		
Total Income	\$ 59.94	

Expenses:

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

Total expenses

Net Income Less Expenses		59.94
Cash Balance		\$20,346.94
Checking Account Balance	\$ 3,347.21	
Savings Account Balance	_16,999.73	
Total all accounts		\$20,346.94

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6,158.00, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$14,188.94

MARAC Silent Keys

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

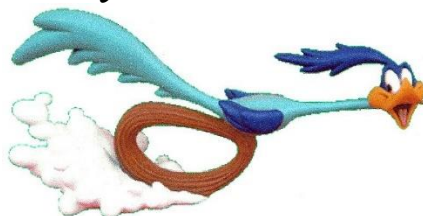
(If you have information that should be included here, please contact W4SIG)

W5AL- Len Parsons, MARAC#2599, Len was USACA#897, worked all counties twice and achieved the BINGO award.

2021 State QSO Parties

Courtesy of WA7BNM

The 2021 Contest Calendar for State QSO Parties is not available yet. The new calendar will be posted here when available.

The County Line ROADRUNNER*“A Roadrunner Is A Very Fast Bird”*

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!
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Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Leadership Team

Board of Directors

President: Ed Eklin, K8ZZ
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Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Brent Schaefer, K9MIX
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715-571-5498, k9mix@charter.net

Treasurer: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ
12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401
573-465-5405, billmorgan1@centurylink.net

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

<p>Dues may also be paid via Pay-Pal and directed to treasurer@marac.org</p>
--

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Immediate Past President: Vacant

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