



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Volume L

March 2021

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Thoughts from the Board

Kerry-W4SIG Southeast Director

Is Spring here yet?? What month February has been with a huge winter storm causing havoc across most of the country, especially in Texas with extreme power outages and troubles with the water supply. Here in Memphis we had the biggest snow storm in 53 years. But now it is all melted and it's time to warm up the mobile rigs. We had some nice activity last month with **KB6UF** making a huge sweep into Georgia right before the storm. Looks like **W8OP** and **N8MD** are about to hit the road along with huge upcoming trips by none other than extreme-mobiler **K8ZZ**. For me, I expect several trips to Louisiana this spring as I now have another grandson born in Baton Rouge. Also a trip to CA should be by early summer. And don't forget that State QSO Parties are ramping up again. Check out later in this issue for the latest on the contest calendar.

As you will see later in this RoadRunner, there are some new faces on the "staff" of MARAC who have volunteered their time to our club. Make sure you personally thank them. I have to say the Pacific Division has come out strong for MARAC! Thanks go out to Ron **KF7ZN** and Randy **K7TQ**!

Unfortunately, for the second year the pandemic has caused a cancellation of two of my favorite events...the Michigan Mini and the Dayton Hamvention. There will be a pent-up appetite for these events in 2022 for sure.

Keep an eye on the marac.org website for bulletins, such as the upcoming MARAC Board meeting on Monday March 8. I am expecting a huge year for county hunting as both solar spots and mobile activity pick up. As always, remember to spot your busy mobiles and provide relays to those in need.

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Happy
Hunting!!

Kerry W4SIG

Radon – Check your Shack!

By Darl, NA8W

Basement Ham Shack Safety Test

Where is your ham shack located? Mine is located in a small room near the bathroom that may have been a bedroom many years ago. The reason I ask is many ham shacks are located in basements, either in a separate room or in a finished basement. Reason being that basements are easier to feed coax cable and find a ground connection for operating.

This past summer a neighbor stopped and told me that he checked his basement for Radon. Its an odorless, colorless, radioactive, tasteless gas. It accumulates in places that ventilation is inadequate including buildings. It usually comes up from the ground through cracks in basement floors or in crawl spaces. If ventilation is poor the gas can stay trapped there causing exposure to people. Over long-time exposure it can cause lung cancer and is responsible for about 21,000 deaths a year.

Since the neighbor was concerned enough to test, he thought I should be warned. He said he found a very high level of radon on a test kit he used in his basement. I went to my local Lowe's store and found a one-time radon test kit. It's simply a kit that is required to be open for at least 48 hours to test the level of radon, then is sent to their lab for their testing results. All this for less than \$15.00. My test came back over 4 picoCuries per liter which means it was in the high range.

Since they recommend a second test before mitigation I went on Amazon and ordered a test meter for continuous monitoring, that was a little over \$100.00. When it came I tested different areas of my house and found no issues to the front of my house, only a crawl space there. The closer I got to the back the higher it got. I only have a small basement that is under the back part of the house and I tested it there. The level was back up to over 4. I then opened the crawl space door, just inside is where the base footer is of my large fireplace. A test in that area found extremely high, over 10. I had found my source of the highest emission.



More trips to Menard's and Lowe's and a weeks worth of labor dealing with a radon fan and PVC pipes and I had a radon mitigation system installed. That included tubing around the fireplace footer, a cover over my sub pump hole and PVC sucking from that hole and PVC pipe crossing over my garage trusses to the far side of the garage for the gas to be expelled away from my house.

Then I waited for about two weeks for the radon meter to gather for a long term test. At the end of the two weeks I had a reading of less then 1 on the meter.

For about \$500.00 and a week of novice work in plumbing and I have a safer house to live in. And if I ever put my ham shack in my basement, I will be safer and healthier too. So, if your shack is in your basement please spend the \$15.00 and play it safe by testing for radon.

Meet Ron KF7ZN-New Election Coordinator

(Note: Ron will need to be officially approved as EC at the next official BOD Meeting in March)

I thought some of you might want to know a little about your new MARAC Elections Coordinator. I thought that I would do an introduction/bio but first want to give thanks and appreciation to Mary for her hard work. Now let's hope I can do this without completely messing it up

I am a California boy, spending the first half of my youth in a little Danish town called Solvang. We still use our aebleskiver pan from a gift many years ago. We were near Vandenberg Air Force Base, and we would watch the missiles go up at night. I still remember the delicious split pea soup at Anderson's Split Pea Restaurant.

My father worked for PG&E, and his work had us in Hollister next, in the Monterey area. In my Junior year of High School my science/math teacher took me to the science lab one day and pulled the neatest radio I had ever seen, just like the Science Fiction movies. He told me it was a ham radio receiver, a Hammarlund HQ 100A, and with a 33-rpm record of Morse code by the ARRL sent me home to play with them. I loved it but did not know how to contact anyone for help and returned it a few months later.

My interests were always marine biology and medicine. With the draft in full swing for the Vietnam War and seeing more and more friends and other students being drafted, I decided that I wanted to be proactive about it. So, a couple of months before the night of choosing ping pong balls to determine our fate, and with my father's support, I went to the Navy, told them I wanted to study the ocean or go in to medicine. They gave me a battery of tests, and became very interested in having me do aviation electronics or nuclear subs. I had never considered these before. They agreed to wait until after the night of the draft. However, my number was very high, 304, so I told the Navy thanks but not now, and instead went on a mission for my church to Ecuador.

A few months after I got back from Ecuador, I married my sweetheart in Logan, Utah. I was studying medicine when finances got really tight for our little family, and Mountain Bell offered me a good job. I took it with the intent of working for a year and ended up staying for 30. I specialized in air pressurization, which is where we put air on large underground cables, that have paper insulation, to keep water out. This took me to Boise, Idaho, Denver, Eugene, Oregon, Seattle, and Utah. At 30 years I was laid off with thousands of other managers, and due to (in my opinion) mismanagement of our retirement money, left me without enough to live on. So, I decided to reinvent and got my RN degree, and am now a case manager, which I have been doing ever since. It means busy days, and sometimes long hours, but I really enjoy it.

I got in to the hobby in 1984, when we lived in Idaho, along with two of my children, thanks to Don, KA7T. My first call sign was KA7VIN. I did quite a bit of mobile when I traveled and gave out quite a few rare ones in Idaho. I wish I could find those achievements, (I still have a few more boxes they might be in). I remember that they had like little red and blue things (isn't that a great specific term-things? oh well) that you could attach to certificates. Anyway, a few years later had to move to Denver for work, where I had long hours, and was out of town quite a bit. For me this meant when I was home it was all about family, church, and community. So, I became inactive from the hobby. But a few years ago, my family began encouraging me to start in again, particularly my wife. So, I got the ARRL manuals, read them, took the tests, passed, and received my old call sign of KF7ZN that was available. I have been as active as time permits, and I am really having a lot of fun with it. I am involved as an active VE, also with ARES for my county, as well as leadership with clubs, and presentations to clubs and conventions.

However, my areas of greatest interest, where I have the most fun is County Hunting, Islands on the Air (IOTA) and DXing. For more information you can go to my QRZ.com site.

So, feel free to let me know if I make mistakes, bear with me through a steep learning curve, and let me know if I can help any of you.



Ron Wilcox- KF7ZN

It's March, Time to Dream!



District Director Positions

By Darl, NA8W

Each year several district directors stand for election per the by-laws of MARAC. Directors serve for a three-year term. The terms are staggered so that the terms of one third (1/3) of the District Directors expire each year. The new term of office starts July 1 each year.

This year the Southeast District director and Great Lakes District director stand for election. Southeast district includes Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Africa and the Caribbean Islands.

Great lakes district includes Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the Canadian call area for VE3.

Any regular member of MARAC may nominate an eligible member of MARAC to stand for election by submitting to the Election Coordinator the name and call sign of the nominee and the office for which the person is nominated, together with the consent of the nominee. Any eligible member of MARAC may so nominate himself/herself.

A director of the corporation must meet and maintain the following qualifications in order to be elected and continue to serve as a director:

- (1) Hold a current, valid amateur radio license with HF privileges.
- (2) Be a member in good standing as evidenced by current payment of dues.
- (3) If a District Director, be a resident of the district represented

Please consider running for election to the MARAC board by nominating an eligible person to stand for election. The deadline is March 31.

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. Go get 'em!

K0DEQ/WBOW 2ND TIME

IN: Fulton, **SC**: Williamsburg

K2MF/WBOW ALL CW 20METERS

GA: 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: Mariposa

W4SIG/WBOW BINGO III

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

N4RS – WBOW 40m Using CW Only

AK: 2nd District

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 **PA:** Bucks **TX:** Galveston **MT:** Lake, Sanders **NY:** New York, Yates

NUOQ – WBOW MASTER GOLD

AK: 4TH District

GETTING CLOSE? SEND YOUR NEEDS IN!

Quarterly Voting- A New Look

By Kerry – W4SIG

It is about time for the next Quarterly Ballots to go out for CW Mobile of the Year, SSB Mobile of the Year, Mobile Team of the Year, CW Mobile Assist of the Year, and SSB Mobile Assist of the Year. Lots of folks have provided so much for our benefit this last quarter with many miles on the road to put out counties and assisting us with relays and posts. Make sure to reward them with your vote.

You will notice a new look to the ballots this quarter. Unfortunately, due to shenanigans by some members who have found pleasure in abusing the Write-In ballot method for several years, that option will no longer be available. Instead, you will be presented with a list of call signs that the Board has approved worthy of votes for their mobile activity. You will also see a list of calls that the mobile stations have personally identified as assisting them the most on their journeys. After all, what better way to find the stations assisting the mobiles the most other than surveying the mobiles themselves! While these changes were not an option that the Board took lightly, it was deemed necessary to ensure the integrity of these honored awards.

Now, make sure you vote for these deserving stations! 73

Awards Committee

Ron-N5MLP

Nominations Now Open for County Hunter of the Year – SSB and CW

As published in the February, 2021 edition of the newsletter, nominations are now open for CHOTY for the 12-month period of activity ending January 31, 2021. Read all the procedural details and nomination requirements in a separate article in the February issue of the RoadRunner. **All nominations by the members should be submitted to the Director of the area in which the nominee resides by March 9, 2021.**

Awards Issued January 22 through February 24, 2021

Awards Issued:					Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Level	Cert. No.	Call	Date of Last Contact	L C Count:	Cert. No.
N5MLP	8/7/2008	USA-Single Band - 40m	1000	6	KB6UF	2/13/2021	1,675	2
N5MLP	1/10/2010	USA-Single Band - 40m	2000	2				
N5MLP	1/16/2021	USA-Single Band - 30m	1000	2				
KAIJPR	1/22/2021	Big Rig	3077	1	Legend of Abbreviations:			
K4YT	1/25/2021	USA - PA - N		25	RAS* = Ran All State			
N7LFX	2/12/2021	Bingo I		375	WAC* = Worked All USA Counties			

MARAC Awards Committee



MARAC Treasurer's Report

Bill, KODEQ

Jan 20, 2021 to Feb 19,2021

Beginning Account Balance \$20,438.72

Income:

Savings Account Interest	9.33
Awards Income	10.00
Misc Income (1)	
Membership Income	70.00
Logger Distribution Income	
Total Income	\$89.33

Expenses:

Awards Secretary Expenses	\$ 126.65
Misc. Expenses (2)	323.20
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)	
Total expenses	\$449.85

Net Income Less Expenses		(360.52)
Cash Balance		\$20,078.20
Checking Account Balance	\$ 3,069.14	
Savings Account Balance	17,009.06	
Total all accounts		\$20,078.20

Note 1 Liability insurance premium to Mercer Consumer

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6181.00, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$13,897.20



Bill KODEQ
MARAC Treasurer

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)

KW3F- Bob Brown, MARAC# 403, USACA#168. Bob was an avid CW operator. He was one of the founding fathers of the Winter SWL Fest, celebrating short wave radio and was the former Executive Director of the North American Short Wave Association. Bob was an avid fisherman. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Bass Masters State Championship Team. He was known as the “Social Director” as he coordinated many events and musical concerts.

W3CR-Chuck Ralph, MARAC#2820, USACA#955, Roadrunner Level 475, 5 Star Award, All Prefixes Award, Master Gold, Master Platinum, Bingo VI, Worked all Counties 9 times. Chuck was a chemical engineer and proudly served in the US Army at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois. He was a mainstay for many years on the SSB County Hunting frequencies.

2021 State QSO Parties

Courtesy of WA7BNM

March

Oklahoma	± Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 13 to 0200Z, Mar 14, 2021 and 1500Z-2200Z, Mar 14, 2021
Idaho	± Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 13 to 1900Z, Mar 14, 2021

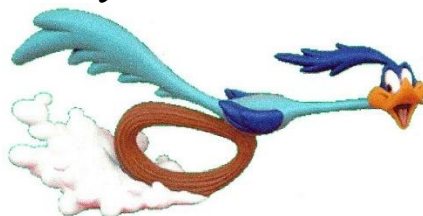
Wisconsin	± Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0100Z, Mar 15, 2021
Virginia	± Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 20 to 0400Z, Mar 21, 2021 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 21, 2021

April

Louisiana	± Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 3 to 0200Z, Apr 4, 2021
Mississippi	± Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 3 to 0200Z, Apr 4, 2021
Nebraska	± Nebraska QSO Party	1300Z, Apr 10 to 0100Z, Apr 11, 2021 and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 11, 2021
New Mexico	± New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 10 to 0200Z, Apr 11, 2021
Georgia	± Georgia QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 10 to 0400Z, Apr 11, 2021
North Dakota	± North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 10 to 1800Z, Apr 11, 2021
Michigan	± Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 17 to 0400Z, Apr 18, 2021
Florida	± Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 24 to 0159Z, Apr 25, 2021 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 25, 2021

May

Arizona	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Idaho	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Montana	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Nevada	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Oregon	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Utah	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Washington	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Wyoming	± 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2, 2021
Indiana	± Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 1 to 0300Z, May 2, 2021
Delaware	± Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 1 to 2359Z, May 2, 2021
Connecticut	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2, 2021 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2, 2021
Maine	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2, 2021 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2, 2021
Massachusetts	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2, 2021 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2, 2021
New Hampshire	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2, 2021 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2, 2021
Rhode Island	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2, 2021 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2, 2021
Vermont	± New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2, 2021 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2, 2021
Arkansas	± Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, May 8 to 0200Z, May 9, 2021

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, K8ZZ1426 SW Summit Woods Dr Apt 3, Topeka, KS 66615
231-649-4747, ed.eklin@gmail.com**Vice-President:** Vacant**Secretary:** Vacant**Treasurer:** Bill Morgan, K0DEQ12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401
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Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$10.00 per year, check or money order.
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Dues may also be paid via Pay-Pal and directed to treasurer@marac.org

Great Lakes Director: Darl Deeds, NA8W8753 Township Rd 48, Findlay, OH 45840
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