



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

Paige-W0FLZ, Pacific Director

I have never been a “writer”, but I feel that as a director I have an obligation to express myself to the membership in hopes of getting something out there that will be helpful to other County Hunters or other hams in general. So, if you will indulge me, I will have my say.

As I mentioned in my bio when I was honored with the position of your Pacific Director, I began County Hunting in the late 80's early 90's through the late 90's when I dropped out of ham radio to raise a family and change careers. Who knew that corporate life would be more demanding than the Military? For me it was similar, as the position I ended up in required me to travel regularly to cities around the country.

One of the main things that ultimately brought me back to ham radio and County Hunting was the memories of all the wonderful **friendships** I made in the years I was putting out counties. My years in the Navy included transfers to various bases in the U.S. and I always travelled PoV (personally owned vehicle) so that I could run counties and work other mobiles. I ran in to other County Hunters on the road, I had been invited into the homes of fellow MARAC members, I have gone out of my way with a damaged trailer to get a Last County for one of those mentioned a moment ago, I recall going out one night while on vacation to see my mother in TX to assist a mobile team that had mechanical problems, and had the company of DX County Hunters to help keep me awake when I needed to drive through the night to meet my travel schedule.

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I still recall those fond memories as I write this piece. I can see their faces in my minds eye and recall the uniqueness of their voices as we worked one another in county after county. Then came the opportunity to have the time off to attend a National convention (The 1992 in Hampton, VA) and I was able to put many more faces to the voices I talked to on the bands for so many years, including a few of those DX stations that I worked on my late-night drives. One of the

thinks that stuck in my mind is that it felt like we were one big family.

Flash forward to fall 2019... I have finally collected enough components (tower sections, used antennas, a new HF rig) and got a couple friends and one of those wonderful sons I raised to help pour the tower pad and got back on the air, only to find that we are about at the bottom of Cycle 24 and conditions are dismal, so I spend most of my time on local 2m and FT8 on HF. I checked out the MARAC website, found the county hunter spotting site but to my dismay, I can not hear a mobile anywhere that gets spotted. While waiting for conditions to improve I renew my membership in MARAC in the spring of 2020, and sign up for the 2020 National in Portland, OR to connect in person with fellow County Hunters. Right down the road! Next state over really, but I travel there regularly so to me it is "just down the road" But those plans are quickly dashed by Covid-19.

At this point I am now looking for other ways to "re-connect" with County Hunting while waiting on the Sun and the end of lockdown. What I find are position vacancies in MARAC, these being Election Coordinator, and V.P. And I believe I covered how I ended up as a director when the position wasn't exactly open in my bio, so I will skip that part and move on.

One of the things I always looked forward too was reading the articles presented in the *RoadRunner* newsletter. Even though I am no longer active on CW, something I will be "re-learning" soon, my favorite read was Ed, KN4Y's article "Dateline CW". Gator's adventures always made me smile. Those will be greatly missed, and I hope that some time in the future we can reprint some so the legacy lives on for future county hunters. Besides that there were always interesting articles of the adventures and mishaps that are commonplace with any road trip but especially ham radio and county hunting as well as some fine technical articles on rig and antenna installations or noise and interference reduction/elimination...

So, one of my first and greatly anticipated tasks as I return to MARAC was to start reading the archived copies of the *RoadRunner* on the MARAC website. I was excited to read about new adventures, the fact that we now have 3077 counties instead of 3076 like when I started, renamed counties, etc. I found new awards sponsored by the club. Followed along on some detailed trips. Found some new names and faces in the leadership of the club as well as many of the "old timers" that helped me get started in County Hunting... And with sadness the ever-growing list of "Silent Keys", voices of friends and family that we will not hear again on the air waves.

And then to my dismay, I read articles describing writeups found in other publications of "character assassination" directed at some fellow County Hunters and their on-air operations, I saw legal documents directed at the club due to a glitch in migrating database information where a member's information was temporarily lost and not found fast enough for the subject individual's liking. Frustrating articles about new award requirements that seems like many members had "the inside scoop" before the award was even approved, but somehow many members were well on their way to achieving. Odd, how do you knowingly work on something that doesn't exist yet?? As a director I have seen angry emails directed at club officers just venting frustration but not providing any constructive input.

So, **it seems to me** that it felt like a family divided. It felt like today's political landscape where it seems so many people are Democrat or Republican, or Green party first and that anyone of a differing party is an ENEMY rather than a FELLOW AMERICAN with different opinion. I know this last year and a half of the Covid-19 pandemic and the new variants that are emerging as causing many people serious frustration and anxiety, but this too shall pass.

Just let me remind all of us, that this is a hobby. I know many of you take it very seriously. Look at all of you who have completed the monumental task of working ALL counties many times over. Respect and congratulations are well deserved, that takes serious dedication. But also remember that all the officers of MARAC are volunteers, and others in the club have put hundreds of hours of hard work in to creating tools to make our award tracking easier, and we are doing our best to run MARAC in a way that benefits all County Hunters and attracts new hams to the fun and camaraderie of County Hunting. These people too deserve your respect.

If you feel we the Board of Directors are not doing something right, contact us in a civil manner, let's have a polite discussion. If you feel you can do a better job, then by all means put your CALLSIGN on the ballot at the next election and if the membership wants you as an officer or board member, I will gladly welcome you on board.

If you are in my region as the Pacific Director, consider my door to be "virtually open". I have a zoom account and if you would like to discuss matters of the club with me, shoot me an email and we can set up meeting, if you are in Western Washington let's meet for coffee. I also make occasional trips to various parts of Eastern Washington and both sides of Oregon, and I am more than happy to schedule an "eyeball" QSO.

73, Paige



Home and Mobile Shacks

This month featuring K2HVN



Here is a nice picture of the mobile setup for Bill, K2HVN!!

MARAC Historian Needed

(Keeper of the Documents)

By Paige, W0FLZ

As you may have read in last month's issue of the Roadrunner, our Historian, Bill Moore K7IOO has gone SK. And with his passing we find ourselves looking for an Historian again. I made the trip to Eastern Washington to collect the 4 boxes of historical items from his XYL, Joyce. I also picked up some flowers for her on behalf of the members of MARAC.

If any of you are interested in taking on this role, please reach out to me. I think that whoever takes on this role will have a wonderful time getting themselves acquainted with the rich history of MARAC and County Hunting in general. Ideally the person that takes on this position should have some understanding of website operations as they will work closely with our Webmaster to get items added to the MARAC website.

Thank you, Paige Butler-W0FLZ, MARAC Pacific Region Director, and Historian Liaison

A Special Offer

By Bob, K7TM

As much as I love being a radio amateur, collecting radio, and amplifiers, it takes up too much of my time and I am struggling to keep up with the everyday basics such as cleaning and maintaining my home, so something has to give. I will be getting rid of my collection.

Below is a list of what's available. Serious inquiries only.

Thanks for reading and understanding...

1. Dustpan and brush
2. Sponges
3. Febreze spray
4. Mop and bucket
5. Window cleaner
6. Vacuum
7. Dishwashing liquid
8. Laundry detergent
9. Fabric softener
10. Laundry baskets

11. Toilet brush
12. Cleaning sprays
13. Scrubbing brushes

Welcoming New Members

Kerry-W4SIG

Please join me in welcoming new MARAC member:

KK7NXS- Fred Grannan, R-4808 Snohomish, WA

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.

K2MF/WBOW ALL CW 20METERS

GA: Jenkins

K2MFWBOW CW-II

CA: Mariposa, Trinity, **ND**: Mercer, **VT**: Windham

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

W4SIG/WBOW 40METERS

CA: Mariposa

W4SIG/WBOW 30 METERS

CA: Mariposa, **NY**: Chenango

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

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: Fourth, **CA**: Lake, **HI**: Kalawao, **WA**: Columbia, Garfield

N0KV—WBOW K Prefix

ID: Teton, **NE**: Nance, **SD**: Haakon, **WV**: McDowell, **WY**: Goshen

N0KV—WBOW Mobile to Mobile

GA: Wheeler, **KY**: Knott, Larue, Menifee, **NC**: Catawba, Lee, **VA**: Lunenburg, Mathews

N0KV—WBOW 5th Time

MT: Daniels **WI**: Sawyer

K4YT -WBOW 4th Time

HI: Kalawao

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

K0DEQ- WBOW Bingo

AL: Tallapoosa, **GA**: Evans; **MO**: Cedar

K0MAF- WBOW USACA 1st Time

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

NF0N—WBOW N Prefix

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

W4YDY/ WBOW CW 2ND TIME

OR: Crook

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

W4YDY-WBOW 8TH TIME

GA:Haralson, Jasper, **IA**: Fayette, **NC**: Hoke, **NE**: Brown, Colfax, Rock, **SC**: Saluda, **WI**: Iron, **WV**: McDowell

WA3QNT—WBOW MASTERS GOLD

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

NU0Q – WBOW MASTER GOLD

AK: 4TH District

NU0Q/ WBOW MASTER PLATINUM

IA: Franklin, Hamilton, **MD**:Worcester, **NJ**: Hunterdon, **OH**: Darke, **PA**: Cameron, Dauphin, Lebanon, Potter

Awards Committee

Ron-N5MLP

Annual Award Winners – 2021

The County Hunter of the Year awards were first announced in the May, 2021 issue of the RoadRunner newsletter because there was only one nominee for each category and there was no need for an election. The other mobile and Mobile Assist awards were voted on for the last quarter during June. Subsequently, the votes for all four quarters were summarized and announced at the annual meeting on July 12, 2021.

The winners for all of the annual awards mentioned above are as follows:

2021 CHOTY Award Winners Announced in the May, 2021 RoadRunner

| 2021 MARAC County Hunter of the Year (CHOTY) Award Winners | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Award Title | 1 st Place | 2 nd Place | 3 rd Place |
| CHOTY - SSB | K0DEQ Bill Morgan | N/A* | N/A* |
| CHOTY - CW | K8ZZ Ed Ekin | N/A* | N/A* |

* There was only one nomination for the SSB and CW categories. Therefore, no election was necessary and there are no 2nd or 3rd place winners

2021 Annual Awards Announced at Annual Meeting on 7/12/2021

| 2021 MARAC Annual Mobile and Mobile Assist Award Winners | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Award Title | 1 st Place | 2 nd Place | 3 rd Place |
| Mobile of the Year - SSB | KB6UF Ron Jones | W4SIG Kerry Long | N8OYY Edward Messenger |
| Mobile of the Year - CW | K8ZZ Ed Ekin | W4SIG Kerry Long | W0GXQ Jerry Mertz |
| Mobile Team of the Year | AB7NK/K7SEN Mary and Neil Vince | KB0BA/N0XYL Lowell and Sandra Tennison | K8ZZ/W0GXQ Ed Ekin and Jerry Mertz |
| Mobile Assist of the Year - SSB | K0DEQ Bill Morgan | KC3X Hollis Thigpen | AJ5ZX Randy Camron |
| Mobile Assist of the Year - CW | K0DEQ Bill Morgan | KC3X Hollis Thigpen | N0KV Barry Mitchell |

Known Issue with Confirmation Email for Last County Submissions

Notice from the Awards Secretary, AB7RW:

Problem with Last County receipts

I did not receive a receipt for my last county submission. What should I do? WAIT. Do not send a duplicate application when you don't receive a receipt.

There is a known problem with our internet provider that prevents the receipts from being transmitted. The provider is aware of the problem; however, there is no fix in sight

This is the solution: WAIT until AB7RW posts awards on the Forum. Next go to the website marac.org, then CountyHunter DB, then Last County Lookup. Enter the callsign of the application that you are concerned about, and check the list to see if your application is posted.

So far, the awards program has received and posted 100% of the applications. All you need is a little patience and understanding. I appreciate that you are checking to follow up on your applications to make sure that they get awarded.

In addition to checking to see if your application has been posted, it would be a good idea to check on your application before you click on SUBMIT. This is where many errors happen.

Awards Issued June 25 through July 24, 2021

| Awards Issued: | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| Call | Date of Last Contact | Award | Level | Cert. No. |
| N8KIE | 2/10/2009 | RAS* - AZ | | 44 |
| K2MF | 11/6/2011 | USA-Single Band - 80m | 1000 | 9 |
| K2MF | 4/18/2017 | USA-Single Band - 40m | 2000 | 4 |
| K2MF | 2/26/2018 | USA-Single Band - 30m | 2000 | 5 |
| N0KV | 6/21/2021 | WAC* - 5th Time | | 121 |
| N1API | 7/1/2021 | Bingo III | | 44 |
| W0GXQ | 7/3/2021 | RAS* - MT | | 29 |
| N8OYY | 7/17/2021 | RAS* - VA | | 23 |
| K2MF | 7/19/2021 | USA-Single Band - 40m | 3000 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| Roadrunner Awards Issued: | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| Call | Date of Last Contact | L C Count: | Cert. No. |
| W0GXQ | 6/30/2021 | 1,350 | 4 |
| K8ZZ | 7/4/2021 | 1,050 | 9 |
| AB7NK | 7/13/2021 | 1,050 | 10 |
| W4SIG | 7/19/2021 | 725 | 23 |
| Legend of Abbreviations: | | | |
| RAS* = Ran All State | | | |
| WAC* = Worked All USA Counties | | | |
| TBD* = Date when intermediate level was achieved is to be determined. Logs submitted support higher level of completion than the intermediate level requires. | | | |

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, MARAC Awards Manager

MARAC Treasurer's Report

Bill-K0DEQ
Treasurer

June 20, 2021 Through July 19, 2021

Beginning Account Balance \$19,308.79

Income:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| Savings Account Interest | \$ | |
| Awards Income | 140.00 | |
| Misc Income | | |
| Membership Income | 47.95 | |
| Logger Distribution Income | 59.12 | |
| Donation | | |
| Total Income | | \$247.07 |

Expenses:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Awards Expenses | \$ | 259.48 |
| Misc. Expenses NOTE 1 | | 771.00 |
| Office Expenses (Postage, etc.) | | |
| Total expenses | | \$1030.48 |

Net Income Less Expenses (783.41)

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cash Balance | | \$18,525.38 |
| Checking Account Balance | \$ 2,507.19 | |
| Savings Account Balance | _16,018.19 | |
| Total all accounts | | \$18,525.38 |

NOTE 1- Annual premium on Officers and Directors insurance policy

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6392.00, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$12,133.38



Bill, KODEQ, MARAC Treasurer

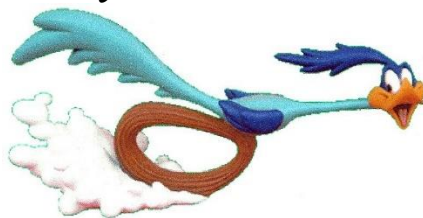
2020 State QSO Parties

Courtesy of WA7BNM

August

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| Maryland | ± Maryland-DC QSO Party | 1400Z, Aug 14 to 0400Z, Aug 15, 2021 |
| Hawaii | ± Hawaii QSO Party | 0400Z, Aug 28 to 0400Z, Aug 30, 2021 |
| Kansas | ± Kansas QSO Party | 1400Z, Aug 28 to 0200Z, Aug 29, 2021 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 29, 2021 |
| Ohio | ± Ohio QSO Party | 1600Z, Aug 28 to 0400Z, Aug 29, 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, 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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Immediate Past President: Vacant

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