



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



Volume 51

September 2021

Number 9

Thoughts from the Board

Kerry-W4SIG, MARAC Southeast Director

Sometimes in life things feel a little weird. Things just aren't the same as we have been used to for most of our lives. Maybe it's a new job, a new grandchild, a new retirement, a new backache, or new band conditions. Lately, with most of us, we have all been impacted by the pandemic of 2020 that still causes harm and disarray in our world. Personally, my entire household, although fully vaccinated, still came down with the COVID virus and are currently fighting it off. Thankfully, things are on the upturn presently.

With some "free time" to not go anywhere but the confines of the home, it presented a unique time to go thru the shack and clear out some old things I have been hanging onto for many years. Such as that stack of RoadRunners from the early 1980s, my handwritten letters from old time county hunters such as **W1TEE**, **N0CYB**, and **N6QA**, and my handwritten "roster" of the CW CHN net with **WA6VJP** at the top, my original "coloring book" and wall county map with all the counties colored in red pencil! The RoadRunner was dozens of pages long back then with all types of news on activity and new awards. There was a calendar of all the upcoming MARAC events, both Nationals and Mini Conventions. What exciting times! Much of the information dispersed back then was only available via mail. Remember when MARAC elections were done by postcard? We live in a totally different world now with software driven rigs, internet spotting, a club website, tiny transceivers with the main

module separate from the display panel, etc. I just disposed of some old antenna tuners that were as big as a lunchbox.

Reflection is a good thing. I, for one, cherish all the fun and friendships I have made throughout the years in this crazy world of county hunting. I very much look seeing many of you at the 2022 MARAC National Convention in Boeman, MT! Let's pray we are able to pull it off come October of next year.

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Activity has been fierce lately with many mobiles out on the road putting out some goodies. Especially nice to see new MARAC VP Bill, **K1YAG**, on the road almost every day. The past weekend saw a plethora of 16 mobiles out in Kansas during the QSO Party including our own **NU0Q**, **WY0A**, **AB7NK**, **K7SEN**, **N4CD**. And who can keep MARAC President, **K8ZZ**, off the road? NOBODY! Hi!

Hope you all have a wonderful September with many new counties in the books and a little college football on the side. 73!

Kerry W4SIG



Logger II- Are you in?

By Kerry W4SIG

As most of you are aware of by now, the brand spanking new Logger II is now up and available! Don, **K3IMC**, has spend thousands of hours making sure this new version is ready to roll. Many are enjoying its ease of use, speed, and RELIABILITY. Don is still making improvements so some features may not quite be there all the way yet. If you are still on Logger I, remember it is no longer supported and you WILL have error messages plague you at this point. Please give Don a call or email him and he will walk you thru the process of getting you on Logger II. It is not hard, and you will be glad you did!

Home and Mobile Shacks

This month featuring Butch, WY0A

Truck is a brand new 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss...

Both of my radios are Kenwood. My HF radio is the TS-480HX with the base mounted under my backseat. I like the fact that it's 200W and I didn't feel like I needed to go with an amp. My 2m/70cm/APRS rig is the TM-D710GA. I like the fact this radio is APRS equipped. It allows CH'ers to know how close I am to the county they are wanting. Plus, my Dad, about to be 88, likes to follow me around...;) The base unit is also mounted under the rear seat.

My HF antenna is the Scorpion SA-680 screwdriver type. I believe this antenna has the largest coil of any antenna on the market and I think it does a bang up job. I use a TurboTuner II made for Kenwood radios to tune the Scorpion. I push a button on the radio, the tuner adjust the screwdriver for lowest SWR and I'm ready to go... I must admit, it does take a little time to go from say 20M to 80M...

The voltage regulator on this truck seems to run a little low, below 14V,.. Last Silverado I had was a 2019 with same engine and it always ran high.. Anyway, I installed a N8XJK Super Booster which maintains 13.8V to my radios...peace of mind...

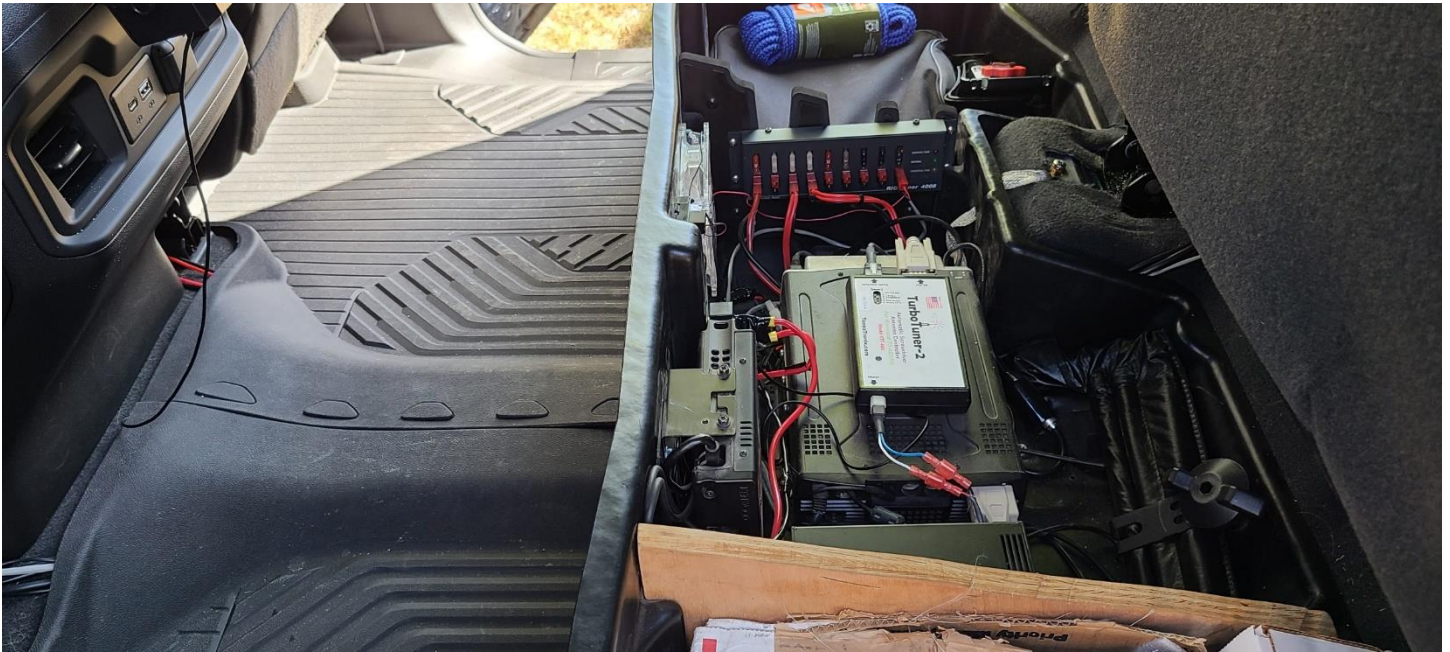
My UHF/VHF antenna is a Diamond SG7500A. This antenna comes pre-tuned for 2m and 70cm.

Both of my antennas are mounted on a piece of 6" wide aluminum channel which runs across the back of my pick-up bed and bolted in. I have RF chokes on the antenna feedline as well as the wires that run the stepper motor in the antenna.

My under seat storage compartment is an aftermarket item. I have a master switch mounted to the outside of the radio compartment. This area is also cooled by a fan that has a thermostat attached to it, when the temp gets so high, it comes on...







73,
Butch WY0A

Convention Picture from Yesterday

Not sure of the location and date of this MARAC convention that was submitted. Recognize anyone you know?



County Hunter Tip of the Month

By Kerry, W4SIG

Sometimes the old-timers take for granted the tools and tips that we have learned throughout the years that aid us in chasing all the US Counties. In this, and future articles, I will try to point out some of these for the newcomers in that it might make their chase that much more fruitful and enjoyable!

SPOTTING:

Before the age of spotting pages and daily use of the internet, there was only one way to keep track of mobile activity on the airwaves... Sit in the chair and listen. If you were lucky enough to have a relationship with some of the other county hunters you might even get a “one-ringer” on your phone as a tip that a county you need is currently on the air. Of course, volunteer net controls greatly assisted in keeping things in order. Well, as times have changed, so have the techniques and technology. Now, many county hunters turn on their MARAC Logger program on their PCs and wait for the “Big Ben ding” to come across their speaker to indicate that a needed county has been spotted. This saves a lot of time sitting in the chair. HOWEVER, it does not work unless someone actually takes the time to “post the spot” on ch.w6rk.com. How is this done? Many mobiles now use their cell phones to access the w6rk spotting site and spot themselves before running a county. While extremely beneficial, it does take extra time from the mobile’s activity. Some mobiles will spot themselves on every band they operate, while some mobiles will just spot themselves on the first band they operate on and rely upon YOU to spot them on the other bands and modes. On the other hand, there are some mobiles who do not have the ability to spot themselves at all or do not wish to pull over and do so after crossing every county line. From a mobile’s perspective, being spotted vs. not being spotted is the difference between dozens of contacts and just a handful if any. The point is **PLEASE SPOT THE MOBILES**. It greatly helps both the mobile in their fun and assists fellow county chasers in achieving their goals.

How to spot? It is rather easy, but it does have some basic rules that make it all move smoothly. The punctuation is key. Without proper punctuation, the Logger program will indicate an error in the spot and it will not register. Here are the steps:

On the internet, go to ch/w6rk.com. Fill in the fields of “spotter call” (your call), “frequency”, “mobile call”, and “comments”. The comments field is where it can get a little tricky. Simply put the **county, state**. Watch for spacing...one space between the comma and state is perfect. Capitalization does not matter. Some of the most common errors might be a county

misspelling, a period put instead of a comma, or no period at all. All of these will cause an error in spotting.

Spotting county lines can be done easily as well. In this case, state the **county/county, state**. There is no need to type the state twice unless the county line is on a state border. Again, watch for proper spacing and commas.

GOOD SPOT EXAMPLES:

Shelby, TN

Shelby/Haywood, TN

Nodaway, MO/Page, IA

BAD SPOT EXAMPLES:

Shelby TN

Shelby. TN

Shelby, TN

Nodaway MO/Page IA

Additional comments alongside spots:

Although not as common, you might notice that an additional “tidbit” of info can be added to a spot. For example, some mobiles might want to let everyone know they are QRT for the day. Sometimes a mobile wants you to know that their spot on a non-standard frequency is not a typo. Sometimes a mobile is afraid they will not have cell coverage when they get to the next county so they want to give a heads-up. These are all great notes to add, and there is a proper way to do them as well. Simply put a space after the spotted state and then in parentheses put your comment.

GOOD SPOTS EXAMPLES WITH EXTRA NOTES:

Shelby, TN (Last for the day)

Shelby, TN (now QRT)

Shelby, TN (next in about ten minutes)

BAD SPOTS EXAMPLES WITH EXTRA NOTES:

Shelby, TN Last for day

Shelby, TN please run again on 20cw

Spotting during a state QSO Party:

State QSO Parties are a great way to accumulate credit for a lot of counties in a state over a contest weekend. Sometimes it is hard to keep up with all the activity. Also, a lot of these mobiles are not regular county hunters and therefore do not know how to spot themselves. Everyone would appreciate a little hand with spotting in these contests. It is important to know that abbreviations for the counties, while used during these contacts, is not a good spot on the w6rk spotting site. Please try to spell out the county when spotting during State QSO Parties.

GOOD SPOTS EXAMPLES:

Shelby, TN

BAD SPOT EXAMPLES:

SHE, TN

Spotting an Active Park as a county:

With the activity of Park Chasing there are a lot of counties that are active that are not on the usual county hunting frequencies. Remember, you can spot any station on any frequency that is active. Just make sure to spot with the same punctuation accuracy.

GOOD SPOTS EXAMPLES:

Shelby, TN (POTA1234)

BAD SPOT EXAMPLES

Shelby, TN POTA1234

Spotting mobile counties on a regular day of hamming is great. It is especially fantastic during a very busy time like a state QSO party when there is a ton of activity going on or during active times of park activity. Even a fixed station in a rare county is fine. Spotting today is critical to the success of all county hunters today. It is easy and highly beneficial. If you are a regular

spotter MANY THANKS from all of us. If you are new to this, give it a try. We will all appreciate it very much!

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, Upson

K2MFWBOW CW-II

AL: Geneva, **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: Madera, Mariposa, **NY:** Chenango

W4SIG/WBOW BINGO III

CA: 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

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 **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

K5WAF – ALL SSB

GA: Rabun, Webster, **LA:** Assumption, **TX:** Calhoun, Red River, Throckmorton, **WA:** Ferry, Pend Oreille

K5WAF – ALL CW

GA: Crawford, **IA:** Union, **IN:** Franklin, Shelby, **KY:** Magoffin, Todd, **NY:** Greene, **TX:** DeWitt, Houston, Karnes, Lampasas, Nacodoches

Awards Committee

Ron-N5MLP

Awards Issued July 25 through August 24, 2021

Awards Issued:				
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Level	Cert. No.
KALJPR	11/24/2002	Native American Counties		63
AB7NK	7/12/2021	RAS+ - AR		27
K7SEN	7/12/2021	RAS+ - AR		28
K8ZZ	7/14/2021	County Challenge	19000	2
W4SIG	7/15/2021	USA - PA - N		26
K5GE	7/15/2021	County Challenge	22000	1
KB8OMG	7/18/2021	Five Star		82
KB6UF	7/23/2021	RAS+ - MI		38
KB6UF	7/27/2021	WAC* - 6th Time		55
KB6UF	7/28/2021	RAS+ - WI		35

Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	LC Count:	Cert. No.
K5GE	5/3/2019	625	30
KB6UF	7/27/2021	1,800	2
WY0A	8/7/2021	75	286
K3IMC	8/8/2021	625	31
NU0Q	8/9/2021	175	147
K8ZZ	8/11/2021	1,075	9
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

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)

July 20, 2021 Through Aug 19, 2021

Beginning Account Balance \$18,525.38

Income:

Savings Account Interest	\$ 5.99
Awards Income	
Misc Income	
Membership Income	136.08
Logger Distribution Income	39.48
Donation	

Total Income	\$181.55
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Expenses:

Awards Expenses	\$ 220.42
Misc. Expenses	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)	

Total expenses		\$283.47	
Net Income Less Expenses			(101.92)
Cash Balance			\$18,423.46
Checking Account Balance	\$ 2,399.28		
Savings Account Balance	_16,024.18		
Total all accounts		\$18,423.46	

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6201.50, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$12,221.96



Bill, KODEQ- MARAC Treasurer

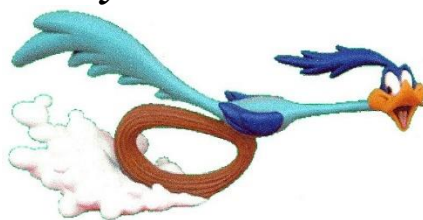
2020 State QSO Parties

Courtesy of WA7BNM

September

Colorado	± Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 4 to 0400Z, Sep 5, 2021
Tennessee	± Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 5 to 0300Z, Sep 6, 2021
Alabama	± Alabama QSO Party	1500Z, Sep 11 to 0300Z, Sep 12, 2021
Texas	± Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 18 to 0200Z, Sep 19, 2021 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 19, 2021
Iowa	± Iowa QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 18 to 0200Z, Sep 19, 2021
New Hampshire	± New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 18 to 0400Z, Sep 19, 2021 and 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 19, 2021
New Jersey	± New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 18 to 0359Z, Sep 19, 2021
Washington	± Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 18 to 0700Z, Sep 19, 2021 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 19, 2021
Maine	± Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 25 to 1200Z, Sep 26, 2021

The County Line ROADRUNNER



“A Roadrunner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

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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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