



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

By Randy, K7TQ – MARAC Secretary

As I sit here writing this Friday evening, October 29, the biggest ham radio news is that the solar flux has been over 100 for a week which has made the 15 m and higher bands usable for much of the daylight hours and into the post-dark time, too. To top that off an X class solar flare left the sun on Thursday and is expected to result in Northern Lights visible into the mid-latitudes on Saturday night. While the D region absorption from the solar flare is not a real welcome thing, the improved high band propagation is a good thing. Looks like we are finally seeing leaving the low solar flux days between Cycle 24 and 25. A good web site to follow solar activity is <https://www.solarham.net/>.

This month is my first opportunity to write the “Thoughts from the Board” so I will use it to tell of my personal on-the-road county hunting activities. I had a good mobile activity start to the year with the Idaho QSO Party in March. Using the Idaho DX Association club call of **NI7DX**, I activated seven Idaho counties in the northern part of the state. Idaho is known for potatoes, but in the northern part it is much more common to see forests and wheat fields. In May, **WA0WWW** and I activated 24 counties in MT, ID, OR, and WA during the 18 hours of the 7th Area QSO Party. Eighteen hours sitting in the truck is a l-o-n-g time. Jay and I take two hour turns driving and operating so it does break up the day. In June the XYL and I took a MT, ID, and WY trip to finish out my Ran All Idaho. Then the planned mobile outing trips took a turn for the worse. **WA0WWW** and I were headed for the Kansas QSO Party where we were going to put twenty-five KS counties on the air. Near the end of our first day’s travel to the middle of Wyoming, a medical issue at home caused us to head home. No KSQP

for us. To make up for that loss and regain some of our glory we had in the 2019 Salmon Run (Washington State QSO Party), **N7WA** and I planned to activate all twenty of the Washington counties east of the Cascade Divide. That one, too, was nixed because the truck got hung-up at the repair shop. I’m optimistic that next year will be better. I suspect that several readers have had similar experiences. I’m sure our *RoadRunner* editor, W4SIG, would be happy to have you submit your year-in-review for the *RoadRunner*.

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Now that fall has arrived I'm hoping to get one more day trip activation before the snows keep me at home. Most readers probably know about "The County Hunter's Planned Trips" web page (<http://www.countyhunterweb.org/DisplayTrips.php>), but in case you don't, it is where you can find who will be out on the road in the next several days. When you plan to be on the road, just enter your plan to let other county hunters know you'll be out there.

Another useful County Hunter's web page is "The County Hunter Web Forum" (<http://www.countyhunterweb.org/DisplayForum.php>). This one is "The place to discuss issues affecting county hunting, or just to ask questions." It also has a Solar-Terrestrial Data box with the latest summary of solar conditions.

Finally I'll close out with a reminder to mark your calendar for the 2022 MARAC Convention to be held in Bozeman, MT Sunday October 2nd to the 6th, 2022. This will be the first in-person MARAC Convention since 2018. The web page with further details is <http://ag6v.com/MARAC//index.html> .

Take care, get on the air, and have fun county hunting,

Randy, K7TQ
Secretary MARAC



2022 MARAC National Convention

<http://ag6v.com/MARAC/>

The 2020 National Convention is set for the *Fall of 2022* !

checkin: Sunday October 2nd, 2022
to
checkout: Thursday October 6th, 2022

Best Western Gran Tree Inn, Bozeman, MT
1325 North 7th Ave. Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-5261



BOOK BEFORE AUG. 1 2022 for the discount



Many details on the website:

<http://ag6v.com/MARAC/>

All rooms \$109. Working on the banquet meals this month – registration will open after that.

You can book your room now; no fee cancellations. No special code word for the discount, just say you are with the MARAC convention.

Submitted by Donna Hinshaw, **AG6V**. Please direct all questions and comments to [ag6v at arrl dot net](mailto:ag6v@arrl.net)



Convention Planner Donna, AG6V

Home and Mobile Shacks

This month featuring

Janet-KC5QCB

Janet's radio is an Yaesu FT-950.

Antennas are a Hustler 5-BTV and a 6m Omni



Welcome New MARAC Members

JO7WXN – Toshihisha Furuichi, MARAC # R4817. Toshihisha won first place in Japan in the 2012 MARAC Contest. Welcome to the club , Toshihisha!

New County Hunter Tip of the Month

By Kerry W4SIG

Maybe you've heard of them, maybe you haven't, but MRCs or "Mobile Reply Cards" are one of county hunters' best friends. If you are chasing the counties for the CQ Magazine's USA-CA award you probably know that you must have written confirmation of a contact for each of the 3077 counties. The most obvious method is a good ole QSL card. But what if you have worked a mobile station in many counties? Do you need a separate QSL card for each county? You could, but that is a lot of paper and a lot of postage. Your best bet is to utilize a MRC card. Using this, you can list all the contacts that you have made with that mobile, fill out all the info, and all the mobile has to do is look over the info and verify with one signature! Simple and easy. Remember that many times the mobile, especially if they are not a county hunter, does not want to take the time to write all the info down for every contact he/she had with you. Save them some time by filling all the info out for them and the odds of you getting a signed card back in the mail is much higher. Below is a copy of a MRC:

DATE	UTC	MHz	RST	ST	COUNTY
OCT 5, 2021	1400	14	559	TN	SHELBY
"	1512	7	579	TN	FAYETTE
OCT 12, 2021	1741	7	55	KY	HICKMAN

Ed Bunch - N4UJK

Signature *X MOBILE'S SIGNATURE*

Note that you fill it out as if you were in the mobile's shoes. The "From" field is the mobile's callsign. The "To" field is YOUR callsign. You can include contacts from various dates, modes, and states on the same card if you choose. Hint: It is recommended that you only put contacts for one state on each card to make it easier to find the confirmations later, but it is up to you. Send several cards to the mobile in one envelope to save postage. It works well all the way around. Where do you get MRCs? Well, you can create and print your own (they can be on regular paper or card stock) or you can probably ask the membership and find someone who has extras that would be glad to share.

Some may ask why CQ Magazine doesn't take LotW. Simply because a LotW account is set up with a specific geographic location. A mobile would have to set up a separate LoTW account for every county they run which would be an extremely time consuming task.

Remember, written confirmations are only needed for the USA-CA award. Awards offered by MARAC do not require written confirmations. You can always work on MARAC awards right from the get-go. You don't have to complete USA-CA to start working on many of the awards your club has to offer.

MARAC General Counsel Opening

By Bill, K0DEQ

JOB OPENING! GENERAL COUNSEL FOR MARAC NEEDED

The MARAC bylaws include this provision:

The Board of Directors may appoint a regular member of MARAC to serve as legal counsel to the corporation. The General Counsel shall provide advice to the Board of Directors, officers, and other officials of MARAC with regard to the business and activities of the corporation.

I have served as General Counsel for the past few years but am no longer eligible to do so because I have retired from the practice of law. If you are a member of MARAC and a practicing attorney, please consider volunteering to serve in this position by contacting any member of the Board of Directors.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.
Bill Morgan, K0DEQ

Logger II Update

By Kerry, W4SIG

If you haven't taken the leap yet, please contact Don **K3IMC** to get your county award logging software up to the latest and greatest. Many are already enjoying the easier interface, loaded features, and faster processing that this new software program provides. No more Logger I error codes!

Logger II is going to have a lot more cool features soon, including ones to help out those folks working on USA-CA for the "first time around". So, contact Don now and get onboard the Logger II train!!

Humor of the Month

Courtesy of Phil, AB7RW

Volunteering:

Phil Yasson **AB7RW** volunteers at the Salmon Creek Legacy Hospital. On 14 October 2021 he was assigned to assist at the Flu/Vaccine booster clinic, assisting the six nurses and those people wanting the flu shot and/or the vaccine booster. By volunteering, Phil was able to arrive early and get his flu shot. Later that evening when he removed his shirt, his wife, Barbara asked if the nurse knew that he was a MARAC member, I said no she did not, why? Barbara said because you have a roadrunner band aid on your arm!

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 that 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.

K2MFWBOW CW-II

CA: Mariposa, Trinity **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

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

W4SIG/WBOW ALL CW 3RD TIME

HI: Kalawao

W4SIG/WBOW 30 METERS

CA: Mariposa

W4SIG/WBOW BINGO III

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

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

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

WA3QNT—WBOW MASTERS GOLD

AK: 2nd Dist **GA:** Lee **IN:** Morgan **PA:** Bucks **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- WBOW SSB

GA: Rabun, Webster, **LA:** Assumption, **TX:** Calhoun, **WV:** Morgan

K5WAF- WBOW CW

GA: Crawford, **KY:** Magoffin, Todd, **NY:** Greene, **TX:** Houston, Karnes, Nacodoches

K4CGY- WBOW USACA

GA: Quitman, **ME:** Franklin, **MN:** Lake of the Woods

W9DC- WBOW MASTERS GOLD

AL: Bibb, **AK:** 3rd District, **TN:**Lawrence, **NC:** Scotland, **TX:** Swisher

W9DC- WBOW 5 STAR

AL: Bibb, **CA:** Calaveras, San Mateo, **NC:** Gaston, Scotland, **TN:** Hamblen, **VA:** Buchanan

W9DC – WBOW 5th TIME

HI: Kalawao, **KY:** Elliott, Morgan, **LA:** La Salle, Red River, Union, **TN:** Lauderdale, **TX:** Terrell, Zavala

Remember to keep me updated as you scratch off any of these that you need. I want to keep this list up-to-date. Many have completed their awards from this column as mobiles are aware of the few you may have to finish them up. Always glad to add YOUR needs to this column!

Awards Committee

Ron-N5MLP

Awards Issued September 25 through October 22, 2021

Awards Issued:				
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Level	Cert. No.
KC3X	11/4/1987	RAS* - NC		25
KC3X	5/7/1988	RAS* - DE		77
KC3X	10/4/1998	RAS* - MD		35
KC3X	4/11/2021	RAS* - SC		36
K0DEQ	10/1/2021	RAS* - IN		34
W4SIG	10/3/2021	USA Single Band - 40 m	3077	4
W4YDY	10/7/2021	WAC* - 8th Time		18
K0DEQ	10/12/2021	USA Single Band - 17 m	2000	4
K0DEQ	10/21/2021	Bingo		376
K0DEQ	10/22/2021	USA-Digital	1000	21
K0DEQ	10/22/2021	USA Single Band - 80 m	2000	1
Legend of Abbreviations:				
RAS* = Ran All State				
WAC* = Worked All USA Counties				

Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	LC Count:	Cert. No.
AI5P	8/6/2021	1,050	11
W0GXQ	8/23/2021	1,400	3
K0DEQ	10/1/2021	175	148
KB6UF	10/6/2021	1,850	2
K2HVN	10/7/2021	975	14
K8ZZ	10/19/2021	1,125	8
K5GE	10/22/2021	650	29
<p>Note: Errors were found in the CH database where previously earned Road Runner awards for 1,400 counties were missing from the data. Those were corrected on the first two lines below and a new award for W0GXQ at that level was added above.</p>			
N4CD	7/17/2008	1,400	1
KB6UF	6/3/2016	1,400	2

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)

Sept 20, 2021 Through Oct 19, 2021

Beginning Account Balance \$18,618.02

Income:

Savings Account Interest	\$	
Awards Income	43.00	
Misc Income		
Membership Income	196.97	
Logger Distribution Income	38.93	
Donation		
Total Income		\$278.90

Expenses:

Awards Expenses	\$ 95.81
Misc. Expenses	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)	

Total expenses		\$95.81
Net Income Less Expenses		\$183.09
Cash Balance		\$18,801.11
Checking Account Balance	\$ 2,776.93	
Savings Account Balance	_16,024.18	
Total all accounts		\$18,801.11

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6393.00, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$12,408.11



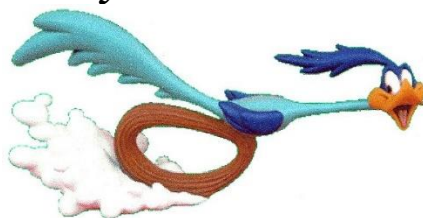
Bill KODEQ- MARAC Treasurer

2020 State QSO Parties

Courtesy of WA7BNM

State QSO Parties for 2021 are officially complete. Hopefully you were able to snag some you needed. Be on the lookout for the 2021 season as it kicks off in February!

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
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Immediate Past President: Vacant

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