



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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



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## Thoughts from the Board

### MARAC Southeast District Director – Kerry W4SIG

Happy December! My apologies for being a little late with this issue, but family and business matters have been hectic lately. Hope everyone is doing well, the lights are on the Christmas trees, the mistletoe is up, and everyone has been good boys and girls this year. Maybe that new ham equipment will fit under the tree this year!

Personally, I just returned from about a two-week trip from Tennessee to California and back, with extended stops in southern Utah on the front and back ends. I tried to stay off the interstate for rare-county purposes as much as possible, but like **Mary AB7NK** has said, those darned AZ counties are big and you gotta get through them sooner or later! Thankfully, there were no problems along the way, other than my leaving my drivers license somewhere and having to go in reverse to retrieve it once! That and an extended delay in eastern AZ due to an awful traffic accident. I do wish I had made the journey through beautiful northern New Mexico when the sun was up. It's not quite not the same under a new moon. As for California, I enjoyed a short visit with my daughter in Los Angeles and the beautiful hills of the northern wine country. I also enjoyed getting mobile self-credit for my last for all 30 meters! But the gas prices!!!! UGGH. About 3 times the cost of gas in good ole Tennessee.

### CONTENTS

- 3 MARAC 2022 MICHIGAN MINI
- 4 MARAC 2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION
- 5 MOBILE SHACK – W0GXQ
- 8 COUNTY HUNTER TIP OF THE MONTH
- 7 MARAC JOB OPPORTUNITIES!
- 11 FINAL COUNTDOWN
- 13 MARAC AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT
- 14 MARAC TREASURERS REPORT

Running so many bands in all the counties provided the chance for some folks to get some credits on the tougher bands. It was quite surprising! Many contacts on 12-15, along with 17 being my busiest band by far during the trip during the daylight hours. I could usually find one or two stations that hung in there with my on 80m most of the day as well. My apologies for my pathetic 40 meter performance on the air. I had a major grounding problem on that band resulting in about 3 seconds of

transmitting before RF would cause the rig to either shut off or abruptly change frequencies, sometimes to another band! So I would hit it for 3 seconds, disappear, then pop back up for 3 seconds. Not easy to work me. Thanks for hanging in there.

Also, a MEGA THANKS to **Hollis-KC3X** who has loaned me his extra TS480 for the last few months or this and my other trips would have been without-radio. Mine has been back and forth to the shop for about 3 months now.

On this trip I figure I was able to put out about 2,000 slots for those chasing the Top List band/mode slots! Didn't do me any good as mobile self-credit doesn't count but for MARAC awards. But I hope everyone had a chance to grab some they needed to boost their totals for Top List.

Here's wishing everyone has a great holiday season full of family, friends, good cheer, and some new counties!

Note in this issue we have a few MARAC club openings that YOU might want to consider. And let's get registered for the upcoming MARAC conventions! **Donna AG6V** and **Ed K8ZZ** have worked really hard on these. I haven't seen most of you for a few pandemic-filled years!

73

Kerry



# 2022 MARAC Michigan Mini

By Kerry W4SIG

Everything is set for the 2022 MARAC Michigan Mini in Traverse City, Michigan! Dates are April 21-23. For details on the shindig run by MARAC President, Ed K8ZZ, please go to the [marac.org](http://marac.org) website. This annual event has been postponed for several years and it will be great to see everyone there next Spring!!



**Ed K8ZZ**

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# 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

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# Home and Mobile Shacks

This month featuring Jerry W0GXQ







# New County Hunter Tip of the Month

By Kerry W4SIG

## KNOW YOUR MOBILE

As **Jerry W0GXQ** has said many times, “Know your Mobile”! This is an excellent tip for those chasing the counties of mobiles all over the country. Like most CW ops have some little unique characteristic that helps identify them, most mobiles are unique as well. It is important to understand this and to learn the characteristics of the active mobiles.

For example, band rotation is very important. A lot of mobiles have a consistent band/mode rotation that they follow. They may go from 20SSB to 40SSB, then 20CW and lastly 40CW. Or they may go from 20SSB to 20CW, then 30CW, 40SSB, 40SSB. Sometimes a particular band is not open for you and you must be ready for the next opportunity/band that comes along. Some mobiles will alternate their rotation for different parts of the day, or even eliminate some bands that drop out and add others that are opening up later in the day.

Some mobiles religiously spot themselves (when they have cell coverage), yet others rely upon others like YOU to spot them. Also, notice that the spotting page that you may be following has a delay from when the county is spotted and when it finally shows up on your pc. If you are not at-the-ready, you may miss the opportunity to get the county you need on that band. This is especially true if the mobile does not spot themselves, as the spot may have occurred late into the county run. There are even mobiles that know this and will spot themselves a full minute before they start their county run. So, if you tune in too quickly, you may not hear anything and think that propagation is not in your favor, yet if you hang around for that mobile to start his operation you find copy is good.

There are mobiles that invite communication from you via text, while others turn their phones completely off for most of the day. This is especially helpful if you barely missed a county and want to beg them to meet you back on that band. (Warning: do not use this one too often! Hi!) You can often find out a mobile's preferences when reading about their planned trip details on the “Planned Trip” portion of the [countyhunterweb.org](http://countyhunterweb.org) website.

While not too many, there are some mobiles that like to start their days before the coffee is made in most homes or run way past the cows come in. Know which ones those are. Also, this information might be found in their “Planned Trips” info. Quite a few mobiles will also make a post with “QRT” when they are done for the day. That way you know to not monitor any more for them that day. Yet, if you know that is their habit, don't dare assume they are done for the day until they say they are.

Knowing the characteristics of your mobiles can greatly enhance your chances of getting all the counties you need from them. Follow their trends and take notes. Good luck!!



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# MARAC General Counsel Opening

By Bill, KODEQ

**JOB OPENING! GENERAL COUNSEL FOR MARAC NEEDED**

## MARAC GENERAL COUNSEL DUTIES

The general counsel for MARAC is responsible for providing legal advice to the officers, directors and other officials of MARAC concerning the business and activities of the corporation.

This includes reviewing proposed contracts with the venue at which a MARAC meeting is to be held, as well as giving advice concerning communications received by MARAC relating to possible legal issues.

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# MARAC Publicity & Advertisement Chairman

By Kerry W4SIG

A new position has officially been created by the MARAC Board. Might YOU be interested in volunteering for this new position? The intent is to promote county hunting and MARAC to increase involvement and membership.

**PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING CHAIRMAN FOR MARAC NEEDED**

Here is a description of the duties:

## **Publicity and Advertising Chairman Duties**

- Advertise and promote MARAC and County Hunting to the Ham Radio community.

- Design posters, palm cards, and other promotional materials.
  - Oversee the creation of promotional materials for shows, magazines and clubs.
  - Actively promote County Hunting and MARAC on Social media as appropriate.
  - Recruit new County Hunters from those who are active on State QSO Parties.
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## 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 CW-II

**VT:** Windham

**K2MF-** WBOW CW MOBILES

**AK:** 2<sup>ND</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>

**CA:** Mendocino

**HI:** Hawaii, Honolulu

**SC:** Georgetown

**W4SIG**/WBOW W PREFIX

**AK:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, **HI:** Kauai, **IN:** Spencer, **NH:** Coos, Sullivan, **NJ:** Hudson

**W4SIG**/WBOW 1X3 CALLSIGNS

**AK:** 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>

**W4SIG**/WBOW 1X2 CALLSIGNS

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

**W4SIG**/WBOW ALL CW 3<sup>RD</sup> TIME

**HI:** Kalawao

**W4SIG**/WBOW BINGO III

**HI:** Kalawao, **PA:** Montour

**N4RS** – WBOW 40m Using CW Only

**AK:** 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**KC3X** – WBOW 40 Meters

**MT:** Daniels, Pondera, Prairie, **OR:** Sherman

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** 4<sup>TH</sup> 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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> District, **TN:**Lawrence, **NC:** Scotland, **TX:** Swisher

**W9DC**- WBOW 5 STAR

**AL:** Bibb, **NC:** Gaston, Scotland, **TN:** Hamblen, **VA:** Buchanan

**W9DC** – WBOW 5<sup>th</sup> TIME

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

**K1RO** – WBOW USA-CA

**LA:** Avoyelles, **MS:** Tippah, **TX:** Lipscomb, Moore,

**WQ7A** – WBOW ALL PREFIXES

**NY:** Hamilton

**K0PFV** WBOW 4<sup>th</sup> Time

**KY:** Elliott

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 October 25 through November 24, 2021

Awards Issued:				
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Level	Cert. No.
WY0A	10/11/2021	RAS* - MT		30
WY0A	10/13/2021	RAS* - WY		28
K5GE	10/19/2021	County Challenge	23000	1
K8ZZ	10/24/2021	County Challenge	20000	1
AJ5ZX	10/25/2021	Five Star		83
W8TZA	11/2/2021	WAC* - 3rd Time		261
W4SIG	11/11/2021	USA - Single Band - 30m		9

Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	LC Count:	Cert. No.
W4SIG	11/11/2021	750	23
Legend of Abbreviations:			
RAS* = Ran All State			
WAC* = Worked All USA Counties			

### MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, MARAC Awards Manager

# MARAC Treasurer's Report

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)

Oct 20, 2021 Through Nov 19, 2021

Beginning Account Balance \$18,801.11

Income:

Savings Account Interest \$ 6.06

Awards Income 50.00

Misc Income

Membership Income 108.63

Logger Distribution Income

Donation

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Total Income \$164.69

Expenses:

Awards Expenses \$ 78.07

Misc. Expenses

Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)

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Total expenses \$78.07

Net Income Less Expenses		\$ 86.62
Cash Balance		\$18,887.73
Checking Account Balance	\$ 2,857.49	
Savings Account Balance	_16,030.24	
Total all accounts		\$18,887.73

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6393, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$12,494.73

**Bill-KODEQ  
Treasurer**



**Bill KODEQ- MARAC Treasurer**

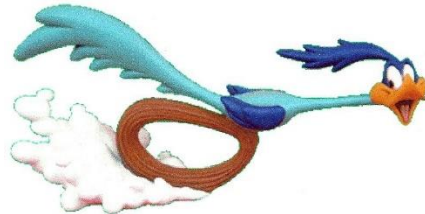
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# 2020 State QSO Parties

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!

## Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Leadership Team

### Board of Directors

**President:** Ed Eklin, K8ZZ  
1426 SW Summit Woods Dr Apt 3, Topeka, KS 66615  
231-649-4747, [ed.eklin@gmail.com](mailto:ed.eklin@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:** Bill Wallace, K1YAG  
1971 Aviation Loop  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
[flybillythekid@aol.com](mailto:flybillythekid@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Randy Foltz, K7TQ  
809 Leith St, Moscow, ID 83843  
208-874-3333, [rbfoltz@gmail.com](mailto:rbfoltz@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Bill Morgan, K0DEQ  
12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401  
573-465-5405, [billmorgan1@centurylink.net](mailto:billmorgan1@centurylink.net)

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](mailto:treasurer@marac.org)

**Great Lakes Director:** Darl Deeds, NA8W  
8753 Township Rd 48, Findlay, OH 45840  
419-421-1533, [na8w@arrl.net](mailto:na8w@arrl.net)

**North Central Director:** Mike Nickolaus, NF0N  
316 East 32nd St, South Sioux City, NE 68776  
402-494-6070, [nf0n@arrl.net](mailto:nf0n@arrl.net)

**Northeast Director:** Al Kaiser, N1API  
194 Glen Hills Rd, Meriden CT 06451  
[n1api@cox.net](mailto:n1api@cox.net)

**South Central Director:** Janet Camron, KC5QCB  
7641 Gladiola, San Angelo, TX 76901,  
325-812-3234, [jcamron279@gmail.com](mailto:jcamron279@gmail.com)

**Pacific Director:** Paige Butler, W0FLZ  
21922 36th Ave NW, Stanwood, WA 98292  
360-652-4680, [W0FLZ62@gmail.com](mailto:W0FLZ62@gmail.com)

**Southeast Director:** Kerry Long, W4SIG  
1854 Newton Nook, Collierville, TN 38017  
901-331-1881, [kerrylong@comcast.net](mailto:kerrylong@comcast.net)



**Immediate Past President:** Vacant

### **Appointed Positions**

**Awards Manager:** Ron Clift, N5MLP  
10719 Lake Windcrest, Dr, Magnolia, TX 77354  
713-542-8999, [N5MLP@comcast.net](mailto:N5MLP@comcast.net)

**Awards Secretary:** Phil Yasson, AB7RW  
13208 NE 5<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Vancouver, WA 98685  
360-213-8297, [pyasson@pacifier.com](mailto:pyasson@pacifier.com)

**Historian:** Mike Davis, N8MD  
39083 Karen Ct.  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-454-5081, [avi8tormd@gmail.com](mailto:avi8tormd@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Kerry Long, W4SIG  
1854 Newton Nook, Collierville, TN 38017  
901-331-1881, [kerrylong@comcast.net](mailto:kerrylong@comcast.net)

**Sunshine Coordinator:** Pat Reiner, KM6QF  
16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436  
213-999-0100, [lovedoxies@aol.com](mailto:lovedoxies@aol.com)

**IT Director:** Donald Flynn, K3IMC  
241 Baywood Cir, LaGrange, GA 30240  
706-302-0725, [k3imc@bellsouth.net](mailto:k3imc@bellsouth.net)

**Custodian, Club Call:** Mike Nickolaus, NF0N  
316 East 32nd St, South Sioux City, NE 68776  
712-223-3164, [nf0n@arrl.net](mailto:nf0n@arrl.net)

**Election Coordinator:** Ron Wilcox, KF7ZN  
2359 N 1220 W, Clinton, UT 84015  
208-369-0566, [rglogan73@gmail.com](mailto:rglogan73@gmail.com)

**MARAC General Counsel:** Vacant