



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

By Kerry, W4SIG Southeast Division Director

Summer is upon us! Prepare for warmer and drier days ahead. Also, plan on some great Mobile activity coming up in the next few months, including the renewed MARAC County Hunters Contest in late July and a much anticipated activation of the Alaskan Districts by **WY0A** and **K4YT**. Hopefully conditions will cooperate and everyone that needs that elusive Second District of Alaska can check it off the list.

I believe the last two months have created the greatest movement in the history of the Final Countdown listings. This is great news! Thanks to all the mobile activity and the runs to some of the rarer parts of the country, many have been able to whittle down those short, ten and below, needs lists to just a couple. Many have even finished them all off for a Whole Ball of Wax! Thanks go out to the mobiles and the spotters for making all this possible. I know many of my needs on various awards have been going well. I am sure that with Alaska coming up, many more folks will be happy as well. Make sure to send me YOUR needs for any award that you need 10 or less for the WBOW so I can list them as well. Also, keep me updated as your listing changes.

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Many mobiles are referring to this list to make their routes. There have been some amazing accomplishments lately, such as **KB6UF/M** reaching the 2000 Last County award level, and **KE3VV** and **K7REL** finishing off 9th and 10th times respectively. Even **AB7NK** finished all CW. WOW! Check out the Awards Committee article this, and

every month, to see the levels your fellow chasers are reaching!

Next month we will be voting for CHOTY. Please check out the articles on the nominees in this edition. Also, word is out that we will have a MARAC National in the fall of 2024! Get ready for more details as we get them. Also, in this edition you will find some nice pictures of the adventures of Ed, **K8ZZ** and Karl, **K4YT**. Some mobile expeditions start from the driveway in your own vehicle, and some start at the airport with a flight to a destination, a rental car setup, and a flight home. Whichever it is, we are all thankful for the time, expense, and effort to activate all the counties that all the mobiles have been doing lately.

IMPORTANT!! A last-minute article addition is at the end of this *RoadRunner* regarding LC2 WBOW award applications. Please read!

Happy Hunting!

73

Kerry W4SIG



County Hunter of the Year

By Ron, KF7ZN, MARAC Election Coordinator

Here we go with the names for the County Hunter of the Year award for 2023. The awards committee, with input from the members, presents the following names for everyone's consideration and vote. The committee capped the number of nominees at 3. The election will be in June, and I will be sending out the ballots then.

This year's nominees are:

SSB - W4SIG, KE4UP, N5MLP

CW - W4SIG, K2MF

To assist the members and help us to get to know their accomplishments, they were each asked to write a summary of their activities which follows.

County Hunting Activity Summary – CW CHOTY 2023 Consideration

Callsign: K2MF
Name: Barry Siegfried



Activity Period: February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023

A. Total contacts on all bands and modes during activity period (including domestic and DX contacts of all types and not limited to county hunting):

260 contacts

B. Total contacts made using mobile operation only during the activity period:

5 contacts

Please list each state (2 digit abbreviation) in which you used mobile operation, the number of counties activated in that state, and the number of contacts made during the period (e.g., AZ 9 692) on separate lines in the space below. (Be sure the sum of all the states contacts equates to the total mobile contacts above in this section.) Expand or contract the space below as necessary to document all the states activated.

NJ (4 counties, 5 contacts)

C. Total contacts made using fixed, portable, or remote operation:

255 contacts

D. The total number of days of mobile activity where I was transmitting for at least four hours or more during the day was:

0 days

E. The average number of different bands I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation:

1 band

F. The average number of different modes I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation:

1 mode

G. The total number of different counties I transmitted from in all of my trips combined during the specified activity period was:

4 counties

H. The number of miles driven in a mobile vehicle while transmitting all the counties specified in item G above was:

60 miles

The value reported was: a rough estimate.

I. Personal County Hunting Award Accomplishments During the Activity Period included:

a. Finished USA-CW-II and received USA-CW-II #42 2/7/2022

J. Service to MARAC During the Activity Period included:

I have spent a great deal of time, particularly since 2016, supporting the county hunting community “off-air”. The two support activities that have been keeping me the busiest since December 2021 or thereabouts are:

a. Since the MARAC annual meeting in 2019, I have been maintaining maintain the off-site Road Runner newsletter email distribution list for MARAC and have been responsible for updating the non-award side of the MARAC DB when necessary since December 2021, which includes processing all club membership, contact info and call sign changes. I provide the MARAC “working group” a monthly report on MARAC membership numbers and changes from the previous month. I have “OCD” when it comes to ensuring that data changes are accurate. And since the number of “out-of-date” MARAC DB entries had been on the increase for several years, during the 1st quarter of 2022, KM6HB and I took on a personal project of researching and updating the latest FCC data in the MARAC DB for each entry we could look up. The end result of this work has made the State Lookup lists on the public page of the MARAC DB more valuable to and accurate for those who use them. This work culminated in a report that I sent to the MARAC “Working Group” on April 16, 2022.

b. While not specific to MARAC, the following activity also supports the county hunting community “off-air”. Beginning in January 2016, I became the 3rd manager and custodian of the traditional County Challenge Award (CCA) Top List (created in 2006 by W6RK). In January 2017, I expanded the traditional Top List into 2 more monthly summary lists for each modes category, one which lists those who hold the highest slot totals for each band, and another which lists those who have achieved working all 3077 county slots on single bands. Adding these summary lists taught me about how useful {array} formulas in Excel workbooks can be to make an “error-free” presentation of data sets easier to maintain, and over the next year and a half, I started using {array} formulas to build the traditional Top List as well. It has now been additional 5 years at this since then, and I am obvious very glad that the CCA Top Lists continue to be popular in the county hunting community and that people still find it interesting in which to participate.

K. *My biographical summary includes:*

I have been licensed as an amateur radio operator continuously for 59 years, since June 1964. My prior two call signs were WN2NWM between June 1964 and February 1965, and WB2NWM between February 1965 and August 1977, at which time I received call sign K2MF and have had ever since. The “MF” suffix was one of the ones I requested on the list I submitted to the FCC in Gettysburg because these are the initials of my parents' first names (Marje and Frank). They both were very supportive of my new found interest in wireless as a hobby at the age of 13 and encouraged me to study and get licensed in the amateur radio service, for which I will be forever grateful. By sheer luck of the draw, K2MF was the first call sign that was still available when the FCC processed my list.

I started county hunting in earnest on April 10 1981. My first contact on the 20m SSB ICHN (Independent County Hunters Net) was with WH6AEO/M (now NH6L) in Catoosa county GA, which was nearly 17 years after I was first licensed. I joined MARAC in 1981 when I started county hunting and have been a member of the club for the past 42 consecutive years. But it took me 31.5 years to finish first time USA-CA because I had two long absences from HF between August 1985 and September 1990 (5+ years) and then again between August 1993 and November 2011 (18+ years).

As we all know, life often gets in the way of hobbies, so I was only actually active on HF for about 7.5 of those 31.5 years I was chasing the USA-CA award which I finally earned in December 2012. After having earned a few more MARAC awards, now at this time in 2023, I am still working on finishing up 3 lifetime achievements, for which I have been counting contacts since I acquired the K2MF call sign in 1977. If I can finish these, then I will feel gratified that I have had a good county hunting “career”, which to this basically non-DXing ham, still fascinates me!

My favorite operating mode these days is CW, mostly because during poor conditions, it is considerably easier to make CW contacts than it is to make SSB contacts. Of course, I know there is always FT8 and the other HF digital operating modes these days, but so far I have yet to become interested enough to want to try them.

County Hunting Activity Summary – CHOTY 2023 Consideration

Callsign: W4SIG

Name: Kerry Long



Activity Period: February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023

A: Total contacts on all bands and modes during activity period (including domestic and DX contacts of all types and not limited to county hunting):

Number of contacts, I have no idea. I only put into Logger a handful of contacts in each county I run. All of my logs are paper. Logger report says 7,053. But actual number is probably closer to 50,000

B: Total contacts made using mobile operation only during the activity period:

I may run a county on 8 bands (2 modes per band) and log everything on paper, but will only put one or two contacts into Logger. My guess is around 50,000.

Please list each state (2 digit abbreviation) in which you used mobile operation, the number of counties activated in that state, and the number of contacts made during the period (e.g., AZ 9 692) on separate lines in the space below. (Be sure the sum of all the states contacts equates to the total mobile contacts above in this section.) Expand or contract the space below as necessary to document all the states activated.

I can't break down number of contacts per county ran as all is on paper and would take forever to add up. But I spent 30 minutes going thru Logger to manually add up number of counties ran per state:

MS-55, TN-46, NV-15, OR-46, WA-10, ID-10, MT-24, CA-1, UT-27, LA-20, AR-12, KY-20, IN-1, OH-25, MI-57, WI-30, IL-35, MO-8, CO-25, KS-30. Total of 497 counties.

C: Total contacts made using fixed, portable, or remote operation: about 3,500

D: The total number of days of mobile activity where I was transmitting for at least four hours or more during the day was:

I guess about 40 days.

E: The average number of different bands I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation: 5 bands. Many times is was 8 bands.

F: The average number of different modes I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation: 2 modes, CW and SSB

G: The total number of different counties I transmitted from in all of my trips combined during the specified activity period was: 497 counties.

H: The number of miles driven in a mobile vehicle while transmitting all the counties specified in item G above was: I Have no idea. **The value reported was** a rough estimate.

I: Personal County Hunting Award Accomplishments During the Activity Period included:

In looking at my call in the marac.org Database, here is what I was awarded during the year:

RoadRunner Level 975,

Mobile of the Year CW-2nd Place

Mobile of the Year SSB-2nd Place

USA Single Band 80M – Level 2000

USA Single Band 17M – Level 2000

YL Mobile -Level 2000

YL/OM Mobile – Level 2000

Ran all Utah

Ran all Illinois

Ran all Michigan

County Challenge – Level 15000

USA CA V

USA All CW III

BINGO III

J: Service to Marac During the Activity Period included:

MARAC Southeast District Director

MARAC RoadRunner Editor, and frequent article writer

Manager of Final Countdown List

Fill-In for MARAC Secretary

I provide Spots and Relays on CW and SSB regularly, both during mobile runs and during State QSO Parties

K: My biographical summary includes:

I was first licensed WD4SIG in 1976 at the age of 14. I operated solely CW for the first 10 years, working on my QRQ operation, achieving accredited CW copy speed of 55 WPM. I was very active in ARRL Traffic handling was NCS on the TN Traffic Net and several independent nets, and was a member of the Brass Pounders League for many

years. Also worked lots of DX on low power from my random wire antenna about 15 feet off the ground. Ham shack was a non heated or air conditioned outbuilding in the back yard. First rig was a Hallicrafters setup. Loved the hum during transmit!!

I ran across the CW County Hunters Net in the late 70s and joined MARAC with membership #1368. My goal was to get USACA CW by the age of 20, but I came up about 18 short of the goal. I was impressed by the professional operation of the CW CHN with the likes of WA6VJP and others as the NCS. My Dad, W4MRD/W5JAC, was my inspiration. He was licensed in 1939 and used CW as his profession for many years with the CAA relaying CW traffic for the Navy during WWII from a tiny island in the Caribbean (Swan Island ex KS4, no longer on the DXCC listing). In the early 80s, we threw a Heathkit rig on the car seat and ran counties together from TN/AR/and MS.

I attended Memphis State University and received a degree in Electrical Engineering. After school I began work with IBM as a Systems Engineer and soon after got married and started on a family. Ham radio took a back seat and operation came to a screeching halt. Many kids and about 18 years later I pulled out my list of needed counties and saw it was still sitting on about 12 to go. I reluctantly bought a mic and tried out the SSB frequencies. I now have completed them all 5 times, with USA-CA CW three times. I have now activated about 2,200 counties from the mobile, both on CW and SSB. Other interests are operating from DX locations as ZF2GG in Grand Cayman and KP2C in the US Virgin Islands.

After 12 years at IBM I opened my own business and ran it for 14 years. Now, with 6 kids and 3 grandkids I work part time at three jobs for family businesses that I enjoy. Outside of ham radio I am very active traveling, camping, enjoy scuba diving and following with a passion my favorite local area college and professional sports teams.

For about 10 years now I have been the MARAC Southeast Division Director. I picked up the role of MARAC *RoadRunner* Editor about 3 years ago and currently fill in with MARAC Secretarial duties. I enjoyed hosting the MARAC National Convention in Germantown TN a few years ago and attending the various Minis and Nationals that the club puts on. I have made many friends in the county hunting community that I cherish and still love to put the counties out from the mobile every chance I get!

County Hunting Activity Summary – CHOTY 2023 Consideration

Callsign: KE4UP

Name: John Howe



John, KE4UP with his navigator Val, KI4JZW

Activity Period: February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023

A: Total contacts on all bands and modes during activity period (including domestic and DX contacts of all types and not limited to county hunting):
2021 contacts

B: Total contacts made using mobile operation only during the activity period:
1813 contacts.

C: Please list each state (2 digit abbreviation) in which you used mobile operation, the number of counties activated in that state, and the number of

contacts made during the period (e.g., AZ 9 692) on separate lines in the space below. (Be sure the sum of all the states contacts equates to the total mobile contacts above in this section.) Expand or contract the space below as necessary to document all the states activated.

<u>State</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Contacts</u>
AR	15	134
AZ	7	23
CA	1	8
FL	16	38
IL	4	38
KY	37	299
OK	26	279
MO	4	25
MS	3	16
NC	10	60
NM	9	36
SC	7	50
TX	122	775
WV	1	2
VA	4	30

D: Total contacts made using fixed, portable, or remote operation:

208 contacts.

E: The total number of days of mobile activity where I was transmitting for at least four hours or more during the day was: 44 days.

F: The average number of different bands I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation: 4-5 bands.

G: The average number of different modes I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation: 1 modes.

H: The total number of different counties I transmitted from in all of my trips combined during the specified activity period was: 266 counties.

I: The number of miles driven in a mobile vehicle while transmitting all the counties specified in item G above was: 14,000 miles. **The value reported was:** a rough estimate.

J: Personal County Hunting Award Accomplishments During the Activity Period included:

Several LC-1 Awards

K: Service to Marac During the Activity Period included:

Not sure that I did anything that changed what's not broken.

L: My biographical summary includes:

- a. I was licensed as a Novice in 1978 as WB1GKY while serving in the U.S. Navy. Over the years I advanced through Technician, General (N4EQR), Advanced (KE4UP) and Amateur Extra classes.
- b. During my time on Navy ships, I operated the onboard ham radio/Navy MARS stations while we were deployed to the Mediterranean Sea, North & South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. I made numerous phone patches which permitted my shipmates to have voice contact their families at home. This was particularly satisfying to me, especially when I could connect a new father with his wife after the birth of their child, or a bereaved shipmate with his loved ones after learning of a death in his family.
- c. While on a tour of shore duty, after installing my first base station, I became interested in the worked all states nets and eventually became a net control and 40 meter net coordinator for the 3905 Century Club. Thus came the nexus of me and county hunting.
- d. In 1984 I was ragchewing while operating mobile enroute to a Century Club outing in Parkersburg, WV. Al, KG5J, who was already in Parkersburg, asked me to give him a contact in a Maryland county that I would be passing through. While talking with him afterward, he introduced me to MRCs, explained the USACA award and MARAC. I soon had decided that putting out counties on the 20, 40 and 75 meter nets (yes, we had semi-organized evening activity on 40 and 75 meters in the mid-80's) was much more fun than just sitting around working other fixed stations and mobiles from a base station. From 1985 to 2006, whenever we had the opportunity, we were on the road and I was operating exclusively mobile.
- e. In 2006 I had to make a "straw that broke the camel's back" decision. I had retired from the Navy in 1998 and had jumped into a second career as a program

Manager for a small CA ship management company. As the company grew and my responsibilities increased, the job required more and more domestic and international travel and some long hours which left little time for hobbies. That, coupled with the acrimony that was rampant between a couple of different factions in the county hunting arena at the time, made the decision to hang up the microphone easy. I became virtually silent on the HF bands, however, I remained active on VHF and UHF in the local area. In 2004 a ham friend and I developed and implemented a plan to train more people in emergency management communication skills. We started the Hampton Public Service Team as a training organization focused on licensing classes and emergency communications skills. To date, the HPST boasts a 90+ license exam success rate in training over 300 new operators, many of whom have attained Amateur Extra class. We have been successful in attaining 501(c)3 status and have become a vital part of the City's Emergency Response Plan. I served as Vice President from 2004 to 2017 and on the Board of Directors from 2004 to 2022.

- f. In 2017 my wife and I built our retirement home in Chesapeake, VA on a three acre lot with plenty of room for antennas. After we moved in, the construction of the ham shack began and improvements are still ongoing.
- g. In 2018 I was designated as the volunteer coordinator for one of the Tournament of Roses Parade floats which necessitates a cross-country trip each year, and spending the month of December in Pasadena, CA and then returning home. This gives me a great opportunity to run counties across the country each year and hopefully complete the quest to run all counties in the US.
- h. Up to this point I have transmitted from all counties in 19 states and have 4 or less counties to visit in each to finish 4 more. Overall, I've transmitted from approximately 1800 counties, with many of the contacts occurring in the 1984-2006 timeframe.
- i. I'm very humbled to even be considered as a potential CHOTY. I look forward to enjoying the HF world and continuing our travels and county running in retirement.

County Hunting Activity Summary – CHOTY 2023 Consideration

Callsign: N5MLP

Name: Ronald Clift



Activity Period: February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023

A: Total contacts on all bands and modes during activity period (including domestic and DX contacts of all types and not limited to county hunting):

9,820 contacts

B: Total contacts made using mobile operation only during the activity period:

7,188 contacts

Please list each state (2 digit abbreviation) in which you used mobile operation, the number of counties activated in that state, and the number of contacts made during the period (e.g., AZ 9 692) on separate lines in the space below. (Be sure the sum of all the states contacts equates to the total mobile contacts above in this section.) Expand or contract the space below

as necessary to document all the states activated.

ST	No. Counties Activated	No. of Contacts
TX	78	1,333
NM	17	369
AZ	18	303
UT	29	609
ID	26	454
OR	35	917
WA	27	685
MT	25	755
CA	59	1,119
WY	3	106
CO	8	145
NV	17	397
Totals	342	7,192

C: Total contacts made using fixed, portable, or remote operation:

2,632 contacts.

D: The total number of days of mobile activity where I was transmitting for at least four hours or more during the day was: 60 days.

E: The average number of different bands I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation: 4.5 bands (based on actual counts by county and calculated average).

F: The average number of different modes I transmitted from most counties while in mobile operation: 2 modes.

G: The total number of different counties I transmitted from in all of my trips combined during the specified activity period was: 342 counties (a few were counted on two different days if they were run separately days apart).

H: The number of miles driven in a mobile vehicle while transmitting all the counties specified in item G above was: 16,982 miles. **The value reported was:** actual recorded mileage (a two day trip to near Dallas and back was estimated at 400

miles while two long trips to the west coast and NW US was based on beginning and ending recorded mileage which was exact).

I: Personal County Hunting Award Accomplishments During the Activity Period included:

- a. Transmitted entire state of AZ and received certificate # 46
- b. Transmitted entire state of CA and received certificate # 31
- c. Transmitted entire state of NV and received certificate # 37
- d. Transmitted entire state of UT and received certificate # 32
- e. Transmitted remaining needs in state of OR and received certificate # 30
- f. Transmitted remaining needs in state of WA and received certificate # 34
- g. Transmitted from 25 of 56 counties in MT.
- h. Transmitted from 26 of 44 counties in ID.
- i. Transmitted from 78 counties in TX.
- j. Transmitted from 17 counties in NM.
- k. Transmitted from 8 counties in CO.
- l. Completed Bingo IV and received certificate # 14.
- m. Completed 8 of my last 9 contacts needed for Mobile Diamond by transmitting from each of those counties. Only one county remaining for WBOW.
- n. Received Last County certificates exceeding 375 at this time.

J: Service to Marac During the Activity Period included:

Served as Awards Manager for MARAC throughout the entire activity period.

K: My biographical summary includes:

Graduated from Texas Tech University in 1970 – BS in Electrical Engineering

Graduated from University of Houston – Clear Lake in 1997 – MBA

Former hobbies included golf, fishing, and woodworking.

First licensed as an amateur radio operator in 1987.

Began county hunting and joined MARAC in 2001.

Attained USA-CA #1169 in August, 2008.

Completed 5th time Worked all USA Counties in 2021.

Completed Bingo I, Bingo II, Bingo III, and Bingo IV.

Completed Master Gold and Master Platinum.

Completed USA – Prefix awards for the K prefix and the N prefix.

Completed USA Single Band – 20m award.

Completed the 5 Star Award

Served as Net Control Manager for about 1 year and was on the Awards Committee for approximately 2 years prior to becoming Awards Manager in 2016.

Now it is important to support the efforts of these individuals by casting a vote in June. Thank you to the awards committee for their time and help, and to everyone who contributes in any way to our fun and enjoyment of this hobby and in particular to county hunting.

Ron KF7ZN. MARAC Election Coordinator

K8ZZ Mobile Trip Report

By Ed, K8ZZ

Ed just returned from his extended trip to the Northeast. Here are his stats:

Days out: 25
States: 14
Miles: 6K
Counties: 250
Contacts: 4600 CW and SSB
LC's given: 176
WBOW: 10
Cost of the trip: **Priceless!!**

Who knows what Ed has in store for us next!!

A Meeting of the Minds!



K8ZZ, K8MFO, K8CW, W8NW

County Map Resources

By Kerry, W4SIG

Ever need to print out state maps of the counties? In the old days we had the “Coloring Book”. But now there are multiple sources you can use for this purpose. One is the TOOLS tab on marac.org. Others that have been referenced to me are:

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2000/geo/state-county-outline-2000.html>

<https://www.waterproofpaper.com/printable-maps/>

Honoring K5KDG



Steve, K5KDG (on the right) earning an honor from his High School

North Carolina Parks on the Air

By Bob, K4RLC

Set your calendars for the weekend of September 9-10. North Carolina State Parks on the Air is an annual event in which we hope to activate all 107 North Carolina State Parks over the course of a weekend. Hams from all over North Carolina and beyond are invited to participate. This should result in lots of counties as well! For more information go to ncpota.org.

Bob K4RLC



Return of the MARAC County Hunters Contest!

By Kerry W4SIG

After a couple year hiatus, the legendary MARAC County Hunters Contest returns! Thanks to John, **WA4JA**, taking over the reigns of as the club's Contest Coordinator. He has worked hard with other very accomplished ham contesters to come up with a very layout for our contest. The goal, of course, is to both introduce others to county hunting and mobile activity in the county hunter world and to energize existing members for an exciting and fun weekend of mobile and county activation activity. The dates are July 29-30. There will be supporting documents posted on the marac.org

website soon. John is going to advertise this contest with the other major contest groups as well as the major publications. Let's make this a weekend to remember!

Here are the rules:

U.S. Counties QSO Party Rules

MARAC 2023 United States Counties QSO Party Sponsored by Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club www.marac.org

Dates/Times: 00:00Z July 29, 2023 to 23:59Z July 30, 2023

Objective: To establish radio contact with as many U.S. Counties as possible in all 50 U.S. states with the emphasis on maximum scoring of mobile entries. Contacts are good towards the various MARAC awards and CQ Magazine's "Worked All Counties Award."

USA Modes and Categories:

Eligible Modes: CW and Phone. No digital modes. All logs submitted shall be for Single Operators. Multiple operators can participate from one station, but each operator submits a log entry.

Fixed Categories:

CW- May be Home/Club or Portable
Phone- May be Home/Club or Portable
Mixed CW/Phone Fixed- May be Home or Portable

USA Mobile:

CW-Single Operator Mobile
Phone-Single Operator Mobile
Mixed CW/Phone Mobile

DX:

Mixed CW/Phone Overall Single Operator.
A qualified DX exchange shall be between USA and the DX station. No DX-to-DX contacts are allowed.

Contest Exchanges: USA stations send RS(T), State and County abbreviation. All

logs shall indicate the proper abbreviations for scoring. Hawaii stations use state/county. Alaskan stations use Judicial Districts 1 through 4.

DX stations shall send RS(T) and "DX" for their exchange, and must indicate USA state/county abbreviations worked in their received log exchange.

A list of recognized abbreviations will be provided on the Contest section of the marac.org website soon. Credit to Larry, **WOQE** for formatting and sharing for use.

Operational Guidelines:

Portable-Single Operator- If a portable station operates from more than one fixed location, multiple logs may be submitted. Portable stations are required to package equipment or stow antennas for travel. Portable stations shall be set-up less than 3 days before the qso party starts, and removed within 5 days of the end of the qso party. Portable stations may also setup and tear down during the qso party. Other stations are in the "Fixed-Home/Club" category.

Fixed-Single Operator- One individual performs all radio operating and logging functions from a single location. Some fixed stations' footprint straddle a county line and must select one of the counties to exchange for the duration of the QSO Party. See MARAC General Rules for details.

Portable and Fixed (Home/Club) stations are in a single category. Do not attach a "/" after fixed/portable callsigns or incorrect scoring will occur.

Mobile- A station which is either in motion, or capable of immediately being in motion. This includes transmitter, receiver, power source, antenna(s), and logging equipment. Mobile stations may be moving or, if safely stopped, be capable of drive-a-way without lowering antennas or loading equipment. **Mobile class entrants shall use "Mobile" or "/M" appended to the call sign.** Mobile entrants shall be Single Operator only. Drivers are allowed. A Club callsign may be used for mobile operations provided only one mobile station uses it and it is not used by a Fixed Entry.

DX: Hawaii and Alaska are U.S. entries. Canada, Mexico and other North American entities are DX-Class. Stations outside the 50 United States are all DX-Class.

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2m are used in this contest. Phone qso's only in the Phone sub bands, CW qso's only in the CW sub bands. No cross mode, cross band, repeater, or satellite qso's permitted.

Suggested Freq's:

CW 50khz up from bottom of band

Phone 1850, 3850, 7250, 14341, 21341, 28341, 50135, 144.200 or 146.550 (FM) are suggested. Mobile windows: 5 khz down from the suggested freq. If you are a fixed station, please keep these freqs clear for mobile operations. Saturday's contest period overlaps RSGB IOTA Contest, but their rules prohibit operation above 14.300 Mhz on 20 Meters SSB.

Scoring: US Stations score 1 point for U.S. Fixed, 2 Points for DX, and 15 points for U.S. Mobile.

DX stations score 1 point for U.S. Fixed, and 15 points for U.S. Mobile.

Multipliers: Total of U. S. Counties worked once per mode, regardless of band. A CW or Phone only station has a maximum of 3077 mults. A mixed mode station has a maximum of 6154 mults.

Spotting and Planning: Mobile Operators are encouraged to post their plans for operation on the K3IMC website, www.countyhunterweb.org/displaytrips.php. During the QSO Party one will find most county hunters follow the W6RK "Mobile Spot Page" at <http://ch.w6rk.com> When posting on W6RK, please include the entire county name and the state abbreviation as mobiles change counties, bands or modes. Since mostly written and mailed QSLs are required by CQ Magazine for a first time Worked All Counties Award, please be courteous and return SASE QSLs and Mobile Reply Cards (MRC's).

Miscellaneous:

A. Connecticut has eliminated counties. For 2023 use the old county lines as guides using maps, gps, or remaining signs to determine location.

B. Self-spotting as a fixed station is not allowed. Self-spotting as a mobile is permitted.

C. Drivers for Single Operator Mobile stations are permitted, provided they do not assist in any way with the contest on-air operations. Two people may transmit from a single vehicle and both shall enter individual logs.

D. County Line operations: As defined by MARAC, a stationary mobile may operate from one county line, and contacts with that mobile shall count as one qso, and 2 counties worked. Some part of the vehicle must be in both counties for the duration of the qso. Operation from more than a double county line is not allowed under MARAC General Rules. If a safe stopped position at a county line isn't possible, or if traffic is being slowed or blocked, operators should transmit from each county.

E. Independent city-a station must use only one county for use in the contest exchange, for the duration of the contest. If mobile in an independent city, the entrant may not use the adjoining county listed in the same independent city as a new county

without actually moving to the new county.

F. Parks-On-The-Air and other award program stations are encouraged to participate. The basic information for MARAC must be exchanged to count towards MARAC scoring. The station shall enter the appropriate Mobile or Fixed and Portable class. Stations shall indicate in "Comments" if they are operating POTA, IOTA, US Islands, or other award programs. Each Portable log file shall be for a single county with WARC-band QSOs and mults removed from the log.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to top scoring entrant in each Category. One certificate each for mobile, CW, SSB and Mixed. One certificate each for fixed or portable CW, SSB and Mixed. One certificate to the leading DX station.

Log submission: Please note that the contest committee will not score your log. Unscored logs will be considered check logs only. Please use the **Summary Sheet**, which can be found at www.marac.org under the Contest Tab, and enclose a printed copy of it with the log copy **only if you have a Mobile-Class paper log.**

Fixed-Class logs and if possible, Mobile-Class logs, shall be emailed using Cabrillo (preferred), ADIF, pdf or MS Word/Excel.

Logs must be received by September 1, 2023 to qualify for awards. Logs may be sent via email or USPS if using a Mobile paper log. Email: marac23@earthlink.net. USPS via N7NU - Lee Hallin, 3413 Walton Ln., Eugene, OR 97408-4673.

Please watch the contest section of the MARAC website www.marac.org/Contests for updated information. For rule questions, please email the Contest Manager wa4ja@arrl.net for a quick reply or ruling. John Almon, WA4JA MARAC Contest Coordinator

New MARAC Members

By Kerry-W4SIG

MARAC would like to welcome the following New Members as well as those who have rejoined after a lapse of membership of two years or more. We want every member to feel welcomed.

If anyone has any questions, contact your District Director or one of the board members. We'll be glad to get you in touch with the proper person.

Welcome

KA4GSR- David Kerr R-4852 Newton, GA

K4YT/M

By Kerry W4SIG

Ever wonder how Karl, **K4YT**, sets up his HF mobile when flying to the destination and renting out a car? Well, here are some pics from one of his recent setups. I love the front seat layout! Looks familiar. Hi!







Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air

By Mike, NF0N

I am a member of 2 clubs, Siouxland Amateur Radio Association (Iowa) and Dakota County Amateur Radio Club (Nebraska), who will be participating in the 2nd annual Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air event. We will use Club calls **K0TFT** and **N0DCA** during this event from June 3-18, 2023. This event is similar to the 13 Colonies and Route 66 events. There will be certificates for participation by working Clubs in 16 states who will be participating. Club stations will be using SSB, CW, FT8 and FM on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters.

See Ictota.org for details of the event and operations schedule. Hope to work you from both **N0DCA** and **K0TFT**.

MARAC General Counsel Opening

By Bill, K0DEQ

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.

Awards Committee Opening Northeast District

By Kerry, W4SIG

Are you in the MARAC Northeast District? This would include **CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT, VE1, VE2, VE9, VY2, Europe**. If so, your club could use your help. We have had an opening for a representative from this district to serve on the Awards Committee for several years. You would be involved in the decisions on any MARAC Awards rules changes or any new awards that are proposed. We have a very experienced and dedicated group on the committee, with our Awards Manager Ron **N5MLP** heading up the committee. Interested? Please contact Ron and let him know. We sure could use you!

Final Countdown

Kerry-W4SIG

The following MARAC Members need less than 10 counties for the “Whole Ball of Wax”, also known as WBOW for various awards. 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** CW Mobiles - **AK:** 2nd, 4th **HI:** Hawaii
- W4SIG** W Prefix - **AK:** 1st, 2nd **HI:** Kauai **NJ:** Hudson
- W4SIG** 30M --**WA:** Ferry
- W4SIG** ALL SSB – **AK:** 2nd **PA:** Northampton
- W4SIG** 20 SSB – **IA:** Lucas, **KY:** Leslie, **LA:** Bienville, Tensas, **MO:** Bollinger, Marion, **TN:** Crockett
- W4SIG** Mobile Diamond – **AK:** 2nd District, 3rd District, 4th District, **MD:** Anne Arundel
- N4RS** 40M CW – **AK:** 2nd
- N5MLP** A Prefix – **LA:** Grant, Vermillion, Vernon **MS:** Issaquena **TN:** Hardeman, Houston, Marshall **VA:** Mathews **WA:** Garfield
- N0KV** K Prefix – **ID:** Teton **NE:** Nance **SD:** Haakon **WV:** McDowell **WY:** Goshen
- N0KV** Mobile to Mobile – **GA:** Wheeler **KY:** Knott, Larue, Menifee **NC:** Catawba, Lee **VA:** Lunenburg, Mathews
- K4YT** Mobile to Mobile – **CA:** Marin, Nevada, San Joaquin, Yolo **MD:** Calvert **OR:** Benton
- K4YT** A Prefix – **MS:** Issaquena, Sharkey **TN:** Perry **VA:** Craig
- K4YT** W Prefix – **HI:** Kalawao **KY:** Grayson, Magoffin Morgan **NY:** Lewis **PA:** Delaware **WV:** Hardy
- K0MAF** USA-CA – **IA:** Cherokee, Emmet **KY:** Monroe **MN:** Pennington

- W4YDY** A Prefix – **MS:** Oktibbeha **OH:** Putnam **PA:** Philadelphia **VA:** Amelia, King William
- W4YDY** W Prefix – **AK:** 1st **NY:** Essex, Montgomery **OR:** Sherman **PA:** Tioga **TX:** Dickens, Runnels, Somervell **VA:** Floyd
- WA3QNT** Masters Gold – **AK:** 2nd
- NU0Q** Master Gold – **AK:** 4th
- NU0Q** K Prefix – **GA:** Newton **NC:** Burke **NE:** Antelope
- NU0Q** 4th Time – **HI:** Kalawao, **IN:** Scott, **MI:** Allegan, **MO:** Adair, Wayne, **NY:** Orleans
- K4CGY** USACA – **GA:** Quitman **ME:** Franklin **MN:** Lake of the Woods
- W9DC** 5 Star – **AL:** Bibb
- W9DC** K Prefix – **NE:** Arthur, Webster **WV:** Tyler **WY:** Converse
- W9DC** CW – **GA:** Chattahoochee, Effingham, Jeff Davis, Jones, **KY:** Pike, Woodford, **PA:** Mercer, **TX:** Aransas
- W9DC** 1x3 Callsigns – **GA:** Grady, **HI:** Hawaii, **NC:** Clay, Jones, **OK:** Kiowa, **SC:** Laurens, **SD:** Haakon, **VA:** Cumberland, Gloucester, Nottaway
- NS2N** 20 Meters – **IN:** Delaware, Marshall **KY:** Woodford **OH:** Shelby
- N2IGW** USA-CA – **HI:** Kalawao
- N2HVN** **HI:** Kalawao
- W8GU** USA-CA – **AK:** 2nd **OR:** Wheeler
- N1API** N Prefix – **MA:** Nantucket, **MD:** St Marys, **MS:** Issaquena, **TN:** Moore
- N1API** W Prefix—**MD:** Worchester, **NC:** Warren, **NH:** Sullivan, **NY:** Richmond, Tioga, **VA:** Accomack, Buchanan, Northumberland, Page, Richmond
- N8CIJ** 8th Time – **AK:** 2nd Dist, **IN:** Union, **KY:** Elliott, Lee, Lewis, **MT:** Golden Valley, Treasure, **OR:** Gilliam, **SD:** Oglala Dakota

- N8CIJ** N Prefix – **TN:** Johnson, **WI:** Burnett
- N8CIJ** 1x3 Calls – **VA:** Charles City
- N8CIJ** K Prefix – **CO:** Hinsdale, **PA:** Forest
- KE3VV** 9TH Time – **OH:** Perry
- KE3VV** Bingo IV – **NC:** Hertford
- KE3VV** 1x2 Calls – **MS:** Neshoba, **SD:** Turner
- KE3VV** A Prefix – **LA:** East Feliciana, **OH:** Morgan
- KE3VV** W Prefix – **IN:** Jennings
- K7REL** 10th Time – **MD:** Charles, **NJ:** Gloucester, Hunterdon, Somerset, **NY:** Jefferson, Queens
- W0GXQ** BINGO IV—**WA:** Island
- W0GXQ** N Prefix – **VA:** Greene
- W0GXQ** 8th Time – **AK:** 2nd District, **CA:** Butte, **TX:** Maverick,
- W0GXQ** 8th Time CW – **AK:** 2nd District, **CA:** Alpine, Butte, **TX:** Maverick
- W0SK** USACA – **AK:** 2nd District, **AL:** Hale, **AR:** Cross, Perry, Phillips, Woodruff, **HI:** Kalawao, **KY:** Bath, Lee, **TN:** Lauderdale
- K0DEQ** All 20 Meters – **AL:** Cullman, **AR:** Howard, **KY:** Bourbon, Bracken, Harrison, **OH:** Lawrence, **TX:** Tyler
- K8MW** 2nd Time – **TX:** Goliad, Jim Hogg, Zapata
- AB7NK** All CW – **SC:** Darlington (complete!)

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!

MARAC Awards Committee Report

By Ron, N5MLP

County Hunter of the Year – Electronic voting to occur during June

As noted in the May newsletter, voting to decide the winners of the SSB and CW categories will occur during June. If you have not already reviewed the nominations and the supporting justification which was published in last month's newsletter, please do so before the voting occurs.

Awards Issued April 25, 2023 through May 24, 2023

Awards Issued:				
Call	Date of Last Contact	Award	Level	Cert. No.
K7SEN	4/1/2023	Bingo II		109
K7SEN	4/1/2023	Master Gold		75
AB7NK	4/1/2023	Bingo III		47
K8ZZ	4/21/2023	Bingo III		49
K4YT	5/5/2023	RAS ⁺ - ND		35
K7REL	5/8/2023	WAC ⁺ - 10th time		8
KA9JAC	5/10/2023	Bingo III		48
KE3VV	5/10/2023	WAC ⁺ - 9th time		13
Legend of Abbreviations:				
RAS ⁺ = Ran All State				
WAC ⁺ = Worked All USA Counties				

Roadrunner Awards Issued:			
Call	Date of Last Contact	L C Count	Cert. No.
K8ZZ	4/21/2023	1675	3
K8ZZ	4/23/2023	1650	3
K5GE	4/25/2023	725	24
W4SIG	4/27/2023	1000	15
K4YT	5/1/2023	425	51
K4YT	5/5/2023	450	49
KB6UF	5/7/2023	1950	2
KB6UF	5/8/2023	1975	2
KB6UF	5/9/2023	2000	2
KB6UF	5/10/2023	2025	2

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, MARAC Awards Manager

Treasurers Report

By Bill, K0DEQ

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Treasurer's Report (K0DEQ)

Apr 20 Through May 19, 2023

Beginning Account Balance		\$18,407.92
Income:		
Savings Account Interest	\$ 5.94	
Awards Income		
Misc Income		
Membership Income	58.20	
Logger Distribution Income		
MI Mini Income		
Total Income	<u>\$64.14</u>	
Expenses:		
Awards Expenses	\$	
Refund		
Misc. Expenses NOTE 1	650.80	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)		
MI Mini		
Total expenses	<u>\$650.80</u>	
Net Income Less Expenses		(\$586.66)
Cash Balance		\$17,821.26
Checking Account Balance	\$ 1756.79	
Savings Account Balance	<u>_16064.47</u>	
Total all accounts		\$17,821.26

NOTE 1: \$40 paid for annual corporation registration fee; \$650.80 paid to K3IMC for annual fee for Team Viewer.

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6387, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$11,434.26



Bill, K0DEQ
MARAC Treasurer

State QSO Parties

Courtesy WA7BNM

June

Kentucky	± Kentucky QSO Party	1300Z, June 3 to 0100Z, Jun 4, 2023
West Virginia	± West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 17 to 0400Z, Jun 18, 2023

Applying for WBOW LC-2 Awards

By Dave, KE3VV

IMPORTANT - Logger II Information on LC-1/LC-2 Pop-Up Award Feature

Recently, there was some confusion about the Last County Award (LC-1 and LC-2) application built into Logger by Don (K3IMC). While a very handy feature, especially for the LC-1 Last County in a

State award to the mobile or fixed station giving you the contact, the LC-2 application for WBOW was misinterpreted.

A few Ops thought that giving out the LC-2 WBOW in Logger also included applying for the actual award. **HOWEVER, such is not the case.**

What Happened? If you gave out an LC-2 award to someone who gave you the LC for the WBOW using the pop-up feature in Logger, **you still needed to go to the MARAC web site and actually apply for the award** (which includes emailing a log to the Awards Manager). For example, KE3VV finished the 9th time WAC award by working KB6UF in a LC for the WBOW... and submitted the LC-2 for KB6UF using the pop-up feature in Logger II. **Nevertheless**, KE3VV still had to go to the MARAC web site and apply for the 9th Time Worked All USA Counties Award. **It was not automatic!**

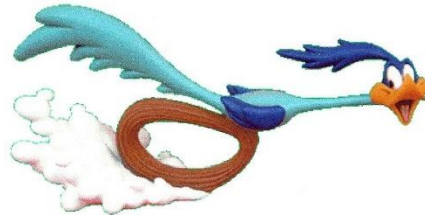
First the (Sorta) Bad News... In order to stop the complaints (Where is my award?) from folks who had trouble understanding the on-line instructions, the automatic pop-up LC-1 and LC-2 application was removed from Logger.

Now the Really Good News... the pop-up automatic feature to allow you to give an LC-1 "Thank You" award to the mobile (or fixed station) who gave you a contact for your last county in a State **will be reinstated in Logger!** However, if you want to give an award for the Last County for the Whole Ball of Wax (LC-2), you will have to do that on the MARAC web site. You can then apply for the underlying award for yourself at the same time.

Please be patient... it will take some time for the Logger modification to be processed by K3IMC, so when it is implemented, the announcement will be part of the Release Notes that accompany the new upgrade version of Logger.

*If you have questions or any confusion on how to apply for the LC-2 or your WBOW awards, please contact Dave **KE3VV** for assistance.*

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
231-649-4747 ed.eklin@gmail.com

Vice-President: Bill Wallace, K1YAG
flybillythekid@aol.com

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ
573-364-1011 billmorgan1@centurylink.net

Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$15.00 per year, check or money order. Dues may also be paid via Pay-Pal and directed to treasurer@marac.org

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Southeast Director: Kerry Long, W4SIG
901-331-1881, kerrylong@comcast.net

Immediate Past President: Vacant

Appointed Positions

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