



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

By Kerry, W4SIG MARAC Secretary

Tis the season of beautiful fall colors and dropping temperatures. Some major dropping of temperatures if you are in the Midwest! Hopefully this last month provided you with many new counties in the log.

Take note of the upcoming MARAC conventions in Michigan and West Virginia and make plans to attend. Details follow.

Also included in this month's issue is critical news regarding the CQ Magazine Awards Custodian position and how it affects county hunting and MARAC. Perhaps you, or someone you know, might be able to help out.

Like me, I am sure that working stations active in Parks on the Air has greatly filled in some gaps in your needs for lots of MARAC awards. Check out the article by Barry **K2MF** regarding tools that can help you better utilize POTA operation for your county chasing needs.

In the Awards report you can see some folks are finishing up some major awards.

Congratulations to Tom, **K7REL**, who finished up several WBOWs this month!

Speaking of awards, please read the in-depth article I wrote regarding the MARAC No Stars award. Lots to consider...

This past month, we enjoyed an abundance of mobile activity! John, **KE4UP**, continues his epic 6 month (or more) journey from VA to the Pacific Coast and

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back. He has put out what seems like half the country this year! Butch, **WY0A**, put out a lot of counties in IA and MN, checking off several new states he is finishing up operating from. Mike, **NF0N**, ran a lot of IA counties. Ed, **K8ZZ**/Jerry, **W0GXQ** made another great team trip running most of Wisconsin. Bill, **NU0Q**, put out a lot of IA and MO. Bill, **K0DEQ**, was active in MO and IL. Don, **K3IMC**, made a run through the beautiful autumnal Smokies in TN and VA. Kraig, **KA2LHO**, put out a bunch in FL. Mary, **AB7NK**/Neil, **K7SEN** ran through some of the huge counties in AZ. Ron, **KB6UF**, made more tremendous runs through AR and MO. Barry, **N0KV**/Pat, **N0DXE** made some runs in CO. I am sure I am forgetting some folks, but overall I would say a very active month. Thanks to all the mobiles and their efforts on the road!

Everyone enjoy the month. Remember to send your updates to the Final Countdown so we can help you finish up your final needs.

Happy Hunting!

73

Kerry Long W4SIG



MARAC Michigan Mini Dates Announced

By Kerry W4SIG

The news is out! The dates for the 2024 Michigan Mini are April 25-27 in Midland, Michigan. Dorie has the hotel all lined up and the marac.org website is all set up to accept your reservations. Please go ahead and make your reservations online and secure your MARAC group rate at the host Springhill Suites Hotel. Mark your calendars for this fun annual shindig. See you there!



2024 MARAC National Convention

By Kerry W4SIG

It's official! The 2024 MARAC National Convention has been approved to be held on Oct 9-12 in **Bridgeport, West Virginia**! Please thank Alan-**W8OP**/Steve-**K8II**/Ed-**N8OYY** for volunteering to be co-hosts of next year's convention. More details to be announced this November when they are finalized. In the meantime, mark your calendars to attend!



Newest USACA Holder!

By Kerry W4SIG

Congratulations go out to the newest USACA Award recipient, Ron Reid, **WD5CSK**! Ron accomplished the award on Aug 18, 2023 and received award number 1273. Way to go, Ron, and now on to Second Time!!



Jerry W0GXQ and Ed K8ZZ planning their next joint trip!

Award Highlight- No Stars Award

By Kerry W4SIG

This month it is time to highlight the MARAC “No Stars Award”. This award was established back on January 1, 2010 and is not an easy one to accomplish. Only 2 county hunters have finished this feat so far. There are no levels to this award (i.e. 1000, 2000, etc), so all 3077 counties must be worked to achieve this award. This award was created to energize mobile operators who haven’t gotten their USACA award (Star) yet and increase the number of county hunters making contacts with such stations. Also, the advent of Parks on the Air creates a huge source of Portable contacts that count toward this award.

Of special note is that ONLY valid contacts with operators in Mobile or Portable operation count for this award. This means that Home stations do NOT count. The accuracy of logging contacts comes into play here. If you might note, Logger defaults every Contact Operation as a “Mobile Contact”. You can change this field to “Home”, “Portable”, “Remote”, or even “Unknown”. For example, if you work W1ABC in a state QSO party and don’t take the time to update this field, this contact will automatically enter it as Mobile, thusly giving you credit for the No Stars award for the county that W1ABC is in. Was this station mobile? Was it remote? Or was it someone sitting in their den? If you do not know, you should update this field to “Unknown”. You can, of course, ask the station. However, if they are in the midst of a fast-paced contest, you probably won’t get the opportunity to clarify this. I can state that, throughout the years, I have taken extreme care to make sure I log such contacts accurately so as to not get credit for the No Star award when it is not due. However, I am sure that I, no doubt, have let some slip. I have been interested and have tracked this award since its inception. However, if you have not been tracking this book all along, you probably didn’t care what entry was in the Contact Operator field. So, your numbers for the No Star award are probably way off. Not much you can do at this point.

Another point of contention is what to do about a mobile who has obtained their star that is using his/her own callsign PLUS a club callsign that does NOT have a star. Should you count that contact as credit for the No Stars award? For example, I have multiple stars which means any contacts with W4SIG/m since I received my first star in 2010 do not count for the No Stars award. But I also have access to a club call KP2C,

which has no stars. So, if I operate as W4SIG/KP2C/m, should you be able to count this contact for the No Stars award? I have heard debate both ways on this. Technically speaking, I think it should count. But I do think this goes against the spirit of the award and why it was created in the first place. As a result, I personally would make sure that I do NOT get No Star credit for this contact. I would follow this same train of thought to an extreme...let's say I get permission from multiple clubs to use their club callsigns on a mobile trip. I could then operate as W4SIG/KP2C/AA3RQ/N7HN/WB5ABC/etc so as to count for every MARAC Prefix and Callsign combo award that exists. But I am only one operator. So should I be able to operate using all these calls giving credit for them all (including the No Stars award)? My personal opinion is that since this can get out of hand, I choose to only count the contact of the callsign of the operator him/herself. What do you think? This could lead to considerable debate, of course.

Back to the No Star award, here it is as described in the MARAC Award Rules. If you haven't tracked it in Logger yet, give it a shot as you might be closer than you realize. Who knows who will be the third recipient?

USA-No Stars Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have not received the USA-CA Award and to encourage new county hunters to transmit counties while mobile.

SPECIAL RULES: A Star is defined in General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards. Only Valid Contacts with operators in Mobile or Portable Operation who have no Stars may be used for this award. If an operator has one or more Stars, only contacts made with that operator before the date that the USA-CA Award was issued to that operator may be counted for this award.

All contacts must be made on or after January 1, 2010.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. USA-No Stars is awarded for working All USA Counties.

After completing USA-No Stars, each sequential award (USA-No Stars II, USA-No Stars III, etc.) can be worked by Starting Over and working All USA Counties again for the sequential award.

APPLICATION AND FEES:

Standard application, logs, and fees.

USACA Award Custodian Opening

By Kerry W4SIG

Recently, I was communicating with Brian, NFOX, the CQ Magazine Award Custodian. Brian has held this position for roughly 5 years now. He is also still flying commercially and now has a second job with the FAA that is taking on all of his spare time. As a result, he has submitted his resignation from the CQ Magazine position. Brian informs that he will continue on in this role for several more months, as necessary, until a replacement is found. This position processes the USACA Award. USACA award recipients are where most new MARAC members come from. It is vital that this award be continued and supported.

If you, or someone you know, is even remotely interested in filling this position please contact Brian directly for more details. This position is critical to the continuance of the USACA award.

New KFF Park-County Lookup Page

By Barry, K2MF

An updated posting of the [US KFF Park-County Lookup Page](#) dated 2023-10-26 is now available at [countyhunter.com](https://www.countyhunter.com) under [KFF-County].

If you still see the prior US KFF Park-County Lookup Page displayed from your browser's cache, then force a new page load using the red **Refresh Page** button at the top of the US KFF Park-County Lookup Page screen, or the page reload button in your web browser.

Family Donation to MARAC

By Kerry W4SIG

As noted in a recent RoadRunner, Leslie **WA4EEZ** recently became a silent key. Since then, her family-Roger Johnson **K4SHI**, made a very generous \$200 charitable contribution to MARAC! What a kind offer! Many thanks to the Johnson family; what a generous offer which reflects upon what a kind and loving person Leslie was. She will be sorely missed by the county hunting community.

Logger Support Announcement

By Kerry W4SIG

As mentioned in the opening article of previous months' RoadRunner, a new support structure has been created for support of the Logger program. PLEASE, everyone send ALL Logger questions/problems to Dave, **KE3VV**, davidsplitt@erols.com. DO NOT send them directly to Logger programmer, Don, **K3IMC**. Dave will look over your issue and try to resolve it. If he cannot, he will package the issues and effectively relay them to Don for attention. This move is VERY necessary to alleviate the workload on Don. He is very busy making Logger the best program it can be and implementing new features all the time. So, everyone please remember this procedure when you have any issues with Logger. It will make everything flow more smoothly and allow Don to keep some of his hair! Hi!

MARAC Awards Report

By Kerry, W4SIG

The following are the awards that were earned and processed for the last month. Congratulations to all the award winners!

Awards Issued:			
Call	Award	Level	Cert. No.
K7REL	Call Sign Combo 1x3	3077	25
K7REL	Call Sign Combo 1x2	3077	6
K7REL	Gemini	3077	184
K8MW	Digital	2000	8
K8ZZ	Mobile Diamond	3077	12
K7REL	Bingo VI	3077	5
K5GE	No Star	3077	2
K8ZZ	Single Band 20M	3077	38
K5GE	Call Sign Combo 2x1	3077	2

Roadrunner Awards:		
Call	LC Count	Cert. No.
KI4JZW	25	530
KE4UP	325	74
KE4UP	350	68
AB7NK	1375	5
KB6UF	2225	2
W0GXQ	1575	4
W0GXQ	1600	4
K8ZZ	1825	3
WY0A	400	56
WY0A	425	52

Opening - MARAC Awards Manager

By Kerry W4SIG

Please consider volunteering for this important MARAC role. Contact any Board member for more info. The description of the position is stated below.

Responsibilities/Duties of the MARAC Awards Manager

1. Administers the MARAC Awards program in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors
2. Acts as the chairperson of the Awards Committee, which creates and considers proposals for new MARAC awards or changes to existing awards
3. Maintains the official MARAC Award Rules document and ensures that all rule changes are published in a timely manner after they are approved by the Board of Directors on both:
 - a. The MARAC Awards subsection of the MARAC website, and
 - b. The Awards Committee section of the monthly newsletter to members.
4. Initiates reviews of new awards or modifications to existing awards by the Awards Committee. Suggestions for award additions or modifications may originate from awards committee members, members of MARAC (including but not limited to officers/directors), or outside persons not currently members of MARAC.
5. Establishes the timeline for the process to determine winners of certain MARAC awards which occur on a recurring basis each year, including:

County Hunter of the Year – SSB/CW, Mobile of the Year-SSB/CW, Mobile Assist of the Year-SSB/CW, Mobile Team of the Year
6. Communicates to the Election Coordinator when electronic elections should occur to support the determination of award winners listed in section 5 above. Also, notifies the Election Coordinator during the execution of the process whether electronic elections will not be required for certain awards (e. g., County

Hunter of the Year) if there was only one nominee identified during the nomination process.

7. Creates and publishes notifications in the monthly newsletter when the nomination process for County Hunter of the Year – SSB and CW actually begins and the subsequent deadlines that must be followed in order for members and Directors to complete and submit their nominations to support the determination process.
8. Ensures that the activities in items 5, 6, and 7 supports conclusions on each of the annual awards by June so that the information can be incorporated in the annual MARAC report to the membership and is announced at the MARAC annual meeting in July.
9. Responds to inquiries from the Board of Directors or any member concerning: a) award rules, or b) interpretation of the rules.
10. Oversees the activities of the Award Secretary to support:
 - a. Processing of applications for awards from members and non-members
 - b. Creation of certificates and plaques requested by members which are supported by electronic applications.
 - c. Reporting of cost expenditures for the awards function to the MARAC Treasurer who receives payments from members, pays invoices from plaque/award vendors, or reimburses the Awards Secretary for other expenses including office supplies, computer equipment purchase/maintenance, shipping costs, etc.
 - d. Timely reporting of awards issued to the membership using various vehicles including but not limited to the monthly newsletter articles and direct posts to the K3IMC forum or CountyHunter.com website.
 - e. Acquisition of plaques, trophies, etc. from appropriate vendors of such items.
11. Authors a monthly Awards Committee article to the *RoadRunner* editor (by the date specified by the *RoadRunner* editor) for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. As a minimum, one section of each month's article should include a summary of all awards issued during the month. Special topics within the article may address new award types which have been recently approved, clarification of award rules, changes in online application forms, information about known award processing issues in the computer systems supporting awards, or other topics of interest regarding awards to the membership.
12. Handles awards related special tasks as assigned by the MARAC Board of Directors.



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 New MARAC Members

WB4JB John Braman, R4858, Volusia Cty Florida

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 and would love for you to join them. Interested? Please contact any Board member 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 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.

K2MF CW Mobiles - **HI**: Hawaii

W4SIG W Prefix - **NJ**: Hudson

W4SIG 1x3 Callsigns --- **AK**: 2nd, 3rd, 4th

W4SIG 20 CW – **AR**: Scott, **GA**: Jasper Newton, **TN**: Cannon

W4SIG 20 SSB – **IA**: Lucas, **LA**: Bienville, Tensas, **TN**: Crockett

- W4SIG** 40M CW—**LA:** Avoyelles, **TX:** Foard, Runnels
- 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, **MN:** Pennington
- W4YDY** A Prefix – **MS:** Oktibbeha **OH:** Putnam **PA:** Philadelphia **VA:** Amelia, King William
- W4YDY** W Prefix – **NY:** Essex, Montgomery, **PA:** Tioga **TX:** Dickens, Somervell **VA:** Floyd
- W4YDY** 1x2 Callsigns—**AL:** Perry, **AR:** Phillips, **FL:** Calhoun, **GA:** Montgomery, Wheeler, **IA:** Audubon, **TN:** Gibson, Meigs
- 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** K Prefix – **NE:** Arthur, Webster **WV:** Tyler
- W9DC** CW – **GA:** Chattahoochee, Effingham, Jones, **KY:** Woodford, **PA:** Mercer

- W9DC** 1x3 Callsigns – **GA:** Grady, **HI:** Hawaii, **NC:** Clay, Jones, **OK:** Kiowa, **SC:** Laurens, **SD:** Haakon, **VA:** Nottaway
- W9DC:** Bingo III – **AR:** Madison, **KY:** Letcher, **MN:** Waseca, **NY:** Livingston, **OH:** Ross, **SC:** Cherokee, **TX:** Cottle, Swisher, Zavala, **VA:** Goochland
- NS2N** 20 Meters – **IN:** Delaware, Marshall **KY:** Woodford **OH:** Shelby
- N2IGW** USA-CA – **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:** Worcester, **NC:** Warren, **NH:** Sullivan, **NY:** Richmond, Tioga, **VA:** Accomack, Buchanan, Northumberland, Page, Richmond
- N1API** 1x3 Callsigns—**MD:** Worcester, **NC:** Warren, **NH:** Sullivan, **NY:** Richmond, **VA:** Accomack, Buchanan, Northumberland, Richmond
- N8CIJ** 8th Time – **AK:** 2nd Dist, **IN:** Union, **MT:** Golden Valley, Treasure, **OR:** Gilliam
- N8CIJ** N Prefix – **TN:** Johnson, **WI:** Burnett
- N8CIJ** 1x3 Calls – **VA:** Charles City
- N8CIJ** K Prefix – **CO:** Hinsdale, **PA:** Forest
- KE3VV** Bingo IV – **NC:** Hertford
- KE3VV** 1x2 Calls – **MS:** Neshoba, **SD:** Turner
- W0GXQ** N Prefix – **VA:** Greene
- W0GXQ** Mobile Diamond – **RI:** Providence, **VA:** Hanover
- W0SK** USACA – **AR:** Phillips **HI:** Kalawao
- K0DEQ** All 20 Meters – **AL:** Cullman, **AR:** Howard, **KY:** Bourbon, Bracken, Harrison, **OH:** Lawrence, **TX:** Tyler

- K8MW** 2nd Time – **TX**: Goliad, Jim Hogg, Zapata
- W8OP** Bingo – **AL**: Perry, **FL**: Martin **HI**: Maui, **KS**: Chase, **NJ**: Hudson
- AB7NK** Mobile to Mobile – **GA**: Emanuel, Jefferson
- AB7NK** 1X3 Calls – **MA**: Barnstable, **PA**: Sullivan
- KC3X** USACA 13th Time – **TX**: Dewitt, Willacy
- KC3X** Bingo VIII – **TX**: Wood
- K8II** USACA – **CA**: Del Norte, **HI**: Kalawao, **NE**: Box Butte, Morrill, **ID**: Boise, **TX**: Dewitt

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!

Treasurer's Report

By Bill, K0DEQ

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

Treasurer's Report

Sept 20 Through Oct 19, 2023

Beginning Account Balance	\$14,887.04
Income:	
Savings Account Interest	\$
Awards Income	208.50
Misc Income	
Membership Income	108.05
Logger Distribution Income	
Donation NOTE 1	200.00
Total Income	\$ 516.55

Expenses:

Awards Expenses	\$ 127.48
Refund	
Misc. Expenses	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)	
MI Mini	
Nat'l Convention	
Total expenses	\$ 127.48

Net Income Less Expenses \$389.07

Cash Balance \$15,276.11

Checking Account Balance	\$ 2705.64	
Savings Account Balance	12570.47	
Total all accounts		\$15,276.11

Note 1: Donation from K4SHI to MARAC in memory of WA4EEZ (SK).

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$6054, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$9,222.11



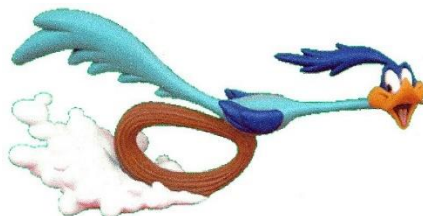
Bill, K0DEQ
MARAC Treasurer

State QSO Parties

Courtesy WA7BNM

There are no State QSO Parties for this month. The next State QSO Party season begins 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
231-649-4747 ed.eklin@gmail.com

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

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

Treasurer: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ
573-364-1011 BillMorgan213@gmail.com

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

Great Lakes Director: Darl Deeds, NA8W
419-421-1533, na8w@arrl.net

North Central Director: Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
402-494-6070, nf0n@arrl.net

Northeast Director: Al Kaiser, N1API
n1api@cox.net

South Central Director: Janet Camron, KC5QCB
325-812-3234, jcamron279@gmail.com

Pacific Director: Paige Butler, W0FLZ
360-652-4680, W0FLZ62@gmail.com

Southeast Director: Dave Splitt, KE3VV
202-669-6630, davidsplitt@erols.com

Immediate Past President: Vacant

Appointed Positions

Awards Manager: Vacant

Awards Secretary: Phil Yasson, AB7RW
360-213-8297, pyasson@pacifier.com

Historian: Mike Davis, N8MD
507-454-5081, avi8tormd@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Kerry Long, W4SIG
901-331-1881, kerrylong@comcast.net

Sunshine Coordinator: Pat Reiner, KM6QF
213-999-0100, lovedoxies@aol.com

IT Director: Donald Flynn, K3IMC
706-302-0725, k3imc@bellsouth.net

Webmaster: Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC
ka9jac@arrl.net

Custodian, Club Call: Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
712-223-3164, nf0n@arrl.net

Election Coordinator: Ron Wilcox, KF7ZN
208-369-0566, rglogan73@gmail.com

MARAC General Counsel: Vacant

Publicity & Advertising Coordinator: Paige Butler W0FLZ
W0FLZ62@gmail.com

MARAC Contest Coordinator: John Alman, WA4JA
931-486-3091, almonj@mindspring.com