



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

By Kerry, W4SIG MARAC Secretary

Gee, it's HOT!! Happy July, folks. Some of you have even gotten quite a bit of rain this past month. This, along with major solar flare activity causing really rough conditions of the bands, has led to a lower level of mobile activity this past month. That sure didn't keep John, **KE4UP**, from his RVing from the east coast out to Nevada. He put out a lot of counties on multiple bands along the way. Once he catches some relaxing time in Reno, he will be on the bands again as he heads up to Alaska and then on back across the fruited plains. Rick, **AI5P**, also continued his blitz around Arkansas. He established awards for folks that have worked him the most during his trek. More details later on in this issue. Ron, **N5MLP**, did his return trip from east TN all the way back to TX. Many thanks to him and the patience of his wife for putting out so many counties on this trip. Coming up late this month is the MARAC County Contest. See the article below for dates, time, and the updated rules. Thanks to John, **WA4JA**, for running the show with this contest which has been going on for well over 50 years now!

Have you checked out the Final Countdown monthly column lately? We have quite a

few members that are not just down to less than 10, but are down to three or less to finish the Whole Ball of Wax for various awards. Might you be close enough to activate one of them? That would sure make their day! Here is a quick list of counties that are listed in the "3 and under" category. Note, this list is regardless of prefix, callsign combo, etc. These could be accomplished by almost anyone activating the

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county. Make sure to contact the county hunter in advance to let them know if you are going. Here are the “hot ones” that are needed for 3 and under. The ones in **RED** are last counties needed for the WBOW:

AK-**2nd**, 3rd, 4th

CA- Alpine

GA-Brantly, Clark, Jasper, Newton, Polk, Quitman

HI - Maui, **Kalawao**

IN – Hamilton, Marshall, Scott

IA – Cherokee, Emmet, Lucas

KS - Chase

KY – Woodford

LA – Avoyelles, Bienville

MN – Lake of the Woods, Pennington

MT – McCone

ME - Franklin

NJ – **Monmouth**

NY – Orleans

NC – **Hertford**

OH – Shelby, **Lawrence**

SC – **Laurens**

TN – Cannon, Crockett

TX – Foard, Runnels, **Sterling**

VA – Warren

Speaking of members and WBOWs (13 times all USA), please keep Hollis, **KC3X**, in your thoughts and prayers. He has had a really rough time of it the last few months with extended stays in and out of the hospital, including being in a coma for almost a week. We are all thinking of you, Hollis, and hope to have you back home and strong again soon!

Nomination periods for both County Hunter of the Year (CHOTY) and MARAC Board positions have come and gone. Without the existence of multiple nominations for any position, there was no need for a ballot to go out in June for these. Your new CHOTY and Board members will be announced during the MARAC Annual Board meeting on July 15 at 9PM EST. Feel free to call in and join in the conference call/meeting at 866-299-7306. The Annual Report will be posted on the marac.org website soon.

That's it for this month. Band conditions will improve! 73, and Happy Hunting!

Kerry W4SIG
MARAC Secretary



2024 MARAC National Convention

By Kerry W4SIG

The 2024 MARAC National Convention is 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 this year's convention. Details can be found on the MARAC.org website under Events. Hotel reservations can be made now for the special rate. Convention registration is also now available. Mark your calendars to attend! See you there!

West Virginia in the Fall!



Owsley, KY

By Tom, WB4API

I am from Owsley County KY. Just got a new TS 590SG but it is in the shop. As soon as it gets back, I will be offering Owsley County. I hear it is hard to find and just want to help some out that may need it. Kenwood should be back soon and can operate 10,15,20, 40 and 80 Lord willing. Email me if I can help. Tom WB4API
barretttt52@yahoo.com

AI5P Arkansas Blitz

By Kerry, W4SIG

Rick, **AI5P**, has completed his goal of running all Arkansas counties and parks during May/June. That's all 75 Arkansas counties and around 40 Arkansas state parks. Wow! Rick is putting together all the stats and prizes he is offering to those who worked him. We look forward to seeing those next month. Nice job, Rick! Especially considering the awful solar storms that plagued your operations most of the time.



USACA AWARD STATUS

By Kerry W4SIG

Hang in there, folks! The Board is working diligently to make this happen. Details in last month's issue. This takes a lot of coordination and work behind the scenes. We should have some more news for you, hopefully next month. Some final decisions have to be made, the official rules have to be written, award application software set up, and a new certificate created. All this will have to be completed and voted upon during an official Board meeting. As a review, if you are finishing the Whole Ball of Wax for the first time **with** written confirmations, you are still be able to apply for the CQ USACA award, thanks to Brian, **NX0X**. If you are wanting to apply for any other level of the award, MARAC is your answer, just not quite yet. More info next month!



MARAC Contest in July

By John, WA4JA

The 2024 edition of the MARAC County Hunting Contest will be on July 27-28. Here are the updated rules for this year.

U.S. Counties QSO Party Rules

MARAC 2024 U. S. Counties QSO Party. Sponsored by Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club www.marac.org

Dates/Times: 00:00Z July 27, 2024 to 23:59Z July 28, 2024

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 including the initial “Worked All Counties Award.”

USA Modes and Categories:

Eligible Modes: CW and Phone. See digital modes for permitted contacts. All logs submitted are for Single Operators. Multiple operators can participate from one station, but each operator submits an individual entry.

Fixed Categories:

CW/Digital- May be Home or Portable

Phone- May be Home or Portable

Mixed CW/Digital and Phone Fixed- May be Home or Portable

If a portable station operates from more than one fixed location in more than one county, 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, or during the qso party. Other stations are in the “Fixed-Home” category.

USA Mobile:

CW/Digital-Single Operator Mobile

Phone-Single Operator Mobile

Mixed-CW/Digital and 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.

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 can be found at the following URL's: Credit to Larry,

W0QE for formatting and sharing for use

CountyAbbrev-V3-4col.pdf CountyAbbrev-V3-4col.doc [hotlinks to marac pages]

Hawaii stations use state/county, Alaskan stations use Judicial Districts 1 through 4.

Operational Guidelines:

Fixed- One individual performs all radio operating and logging functions from a single location as defined by the ARRL Contest Guidelines. A few fixed station footprint may straddle a county line and they must select one of the counties to exchange for the duration of the QSO Party. See MARAC General Rules for details.

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 stopped, be capable of drive-a-way without lowering antennas or loading equipment. **Mobile class entrants must use “Mobile” or “/M”** appended to the call sign. Drivers are allowed.

Digital Modes: Only digital modes that allow full 2 way exchanges between both stations are allowed, such as FT-4 with proper setup. FT-8 is NOT an allowable mode since a grid square cannot define the county of operation. Allowable digital modes shall count as CW contacts for scoring and duplicate calculations.

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/Digital qso's only in the CW/Digital sub bands. No cross mode, cross band, repeater, or satellite qso's permitted. A CW/Digital and a Phone contact is allowed on each band for each station.

Suggested Freq's:

CW 50khz up from bottom of band

Phone 1850, 3850, 7250, 14341, 21341, 28341, 50135, 144.200 or 146.550 (FM)

Mobile windows: 5 khz down from suggested freq on HF. 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: 1 point for U.S. Fixed, 2 Points for outside U.S., 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 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 QSL are required by MARAC for first time Worked All Counties Award, please be courteous and return SASE QSLs and Mobile Reply Cards (MRC's).

Miscellaneous:

- A.** Connecticut eliminated counties in favor of eight "Planning Districts." For 2024 use the old county lines by 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 by radio operations, 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, IOTA 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/Portable class. Stations shall indicate in "Comments" if they are operating POTA, IOTA, US Islands, or other award programs. Each USA 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. Un-

scored logs will be considered check logs only. Please use this summary sheet ([marac hotlink](#)) and enclose a printed copy with the log copy only if you have a Mobile-Class paper log.

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

Logs must be received by September 1, 2024 to qualify for awards. Logs may be sent by email (or post only if using a Mobile paper log.) Email: marac2024contest@gmail.com USPS: N7NU - Lee Hallin, 3413 Walton Ln., Eugene, OR 97408-4673.

Please watch the contest section of the MARAC website for updated information, including Certificate sponsors, contest records, and planned trips for the contest. There are plenty of sponsorships available. Please contact the Contest Coordinator (WA4JA-) before the contest for details at marac2024contest@gmail.com.

MARAC Web Server

By Kerry, W4SIG

As most of you know, our club's database and some software was written in a language that no longer has much support in the Web Server world, We have been stuck with one provider who still supports us, but on an increasingly poorer level. This has resulted in many issues, including a website that goes down more than we would like, and our awards software failing to reliably send out emails. **KA9JAC** and **K3IMC** have been working diligently to find a solution. Matter of fact, this has become the main focus of Don's for the last few months. Some light may be at the end of the tunnel. Don will keep us informed. Stay tuned...

Important Logger Announcement

By Kerry W4SIG

This is a reminder....As mentioned for many months now, 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 the 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!

IMPORTANT!!!

Also, **we need a volunteer** to assist new members with Logger 2 installation. Don is overworked and needs some help. If you are interested in helping out new members in this capacity, please let Don or any Board member know. For now, all new Logger 2 installations are on hold until we get someone to step into this role. Help!



Not the First MARAC Convention 😊

MARAC Awards Report

By Kerry, W4SIG

The following are the awards that were earned and processed for the last month. Note that some members do not apply for levels of awards (i.e. 1000, 2000, 3000, etc), but rather wait until they work all 3077 to apply. Thus, some may have worked all 3077, yet do not have the various lower level awards.

Awards Issued:		Awards Issued:	
Call	Award	Level	Cert. No.
K4YT	Ran All CT		47
K4YT	Ran All RI		53
K4YT	Ran all VT		40
K4YT	Ran all WA		36

Roadrunner Awards:		
Call	LC Count	Cert. No.
W8OP	200	133
K7TQ	25	532
KE4UP	375	61

MARAC Openings

By Kerry W4SIG

There are numerous opportunities for YOU to get involved in MARAC. We currently have openings for Vice President, Awards Manager, and Legal Counsel. Contact any Board member for more details. We sure could use you!

Silent Keys

Our thoughts and prayers go out to these members and their families:



NK4T- Wayne Hester, MARAC#1735

KR2E – Paul Plache, MARAC#458, Polaris Award #155



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.

W5WIL Dennis Walden, MARAC # 4874, Pontotoc Cty, OK

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** 40 Meters – **HI**: Kalawao, **MT**: McCone
- K2MF** 30 Meters – **CA**: Alpine **HI**: Kalawao
- W4SIG** W Prefix - **NJ**: Hudson
- W4SIG** 1x3 Callsigns --- **AK**: 2nd, 3rd, 4th
- W4SIG** 20 CW – **GA**: Jasper Newton, **TN**: Cannon
- W4SIG** 20 SSB – **IA**: Lucas, **LA**: Bienville **TN**: Crockett
- W4SIG** 40M CW—**LA**: Avoyelles, **TX**: Foard, Runnels
- W4SIG** Bingo Cinco – **AK**: 1st, **HI**: Kalawao, **NJ**: Essex, Ocean, Warren, **NY**: Rockland, **PA**: Jefferson, Lancaster, Philadelphia, **WV**: Pocahontas
- W4SIG** 17M – **NY**: Albany, Niagara, Tioga, **PA**: Berks, Bradford, Indiana, McKean, Northumberland, Wayne, **VT**: Rutland
- N4RS** 40M CW – **AK**: 2nd
- N5MLP** A Prefix – **LA**: Grant, Vermillion, Vernon **MS**: Issaquena **TN**: Hardeman, Houston, Marshall **VA**: Mathews **WA**: Garfield
- N5MLP** SSB – **GA**: Oconee, Thomas, **IL**: DeKalb, **NC**: Pamlico, **VA**: Orange
- N0KV** K Prefix – **ID**: Teton **NE**: Nance **SD**: Haakon **WV**: McDowell **WY**: Goshen

- N0KV** Mobile to Mobile – **KY:** Knott, Larue, Menifee **NC:** Catawba, Lee **VA:** Lunenburg, Mathews
- N0KV** Mobile Diamond – **PA:** Forest, McLean, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, **VA:** Amelia, Nottoway, **IL:** Menard, **ME:** Waldo, **NC:** Pender
- K4YT** Mobile to Mobile – **CA:** Marin, Nevada, **MD:** Calvert **OR:** Benton
- K4YT** A Prefix – **MS:** Issaquena, Sharkey **TN:** Perry **VA:** Craig
- K4YT** W Prefix – **GA:** Baker, **HI:** Kalawao **NY:** Lewis
- K4YT** 40 Meters – **HI:** Kalawao, **MT:** Carter, Golden Valley, Meagher, Mineral, Roosevelt
- K0MAF** USA-CA – **IA:** Cherokee, Emmet, **MN:** Pennington
- W4YDY** A Prefix – **MS:** Oktibbeha **OH:** Putnam **PA:** Philadelphia **VA:** Amelia
- 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
- NU0Q** 4th Time – **HI:** Kalawao, **IN:** Scott, **NY:** Orleans
- K4CGY** USACA – **GA:** Quitman **ME:** Franklin **MN:** Lake of the Woods
- W9DC** K Prefix – **NE:** Webster
- W9DC** CW – **GA:** Effingham, Jones, **KY:** Woodford
- W9DC** 1x3 Callsigns – **GA:** Grady, **NC:** Clay, Jones, **OK:** Kiowa, **SD:** Haakon, **VA:** Nottoway
- W9DC:** Bingo III – **AR:** Madison, **KY:** Letcher, **NY:** Livingston, **TX:** Swisher, Zavala, **VA:** Goochland
- NS2N** 20 Meters – **IN:** Marshall **KY:** Woodford **OH:** Shelby

- NS2N** CW III – **SC**: Laurens
- NS2N** Five Star – **NJ**: Monmouth
- N2IGW** USA-CA – **HI**: Kalawao
- 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
- 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** All 20 Meters All CW – **IL**: Greene, Stevenson, **IN**: Delaware, **MI**: Kewenaw, Lapeer, Tuscola
- W0SK** USACA – **HI**: Kalawao
- K0DEQ** All 20 Meters – **OH**: Lawrence
- W8OP** Bingo – **HI**: Maui, **KS**: Chase
- KC3X** CW 6th Time – **GA**: Heard, **KY**: Henderson, Letcher, **NJ**: Passaic, **OH**: Darke, Mercer, Muskingum, **TN**: Houston, Trousdale, Unicoi, **TX**: Comanche, Duval, Neuces, Tyler

K8II USACA – **HI**: Kalawao

K7REL CW 6th Time – **KY**: Letcher, **TX**: Duvall, Tyler, Willacy

LY5A 5th Time – **CO**: Hinsdale, **GA**: Screven, **KY**: Meniffee, **MN**: Fairbault, Waseca, **SD**: Edmunds, McPherson, **TX**: Mitchell, Stephens

KC5P USACA ALL CW – **GA**: Polk, Clark, **IN**: Hamilton

N8HAM 3rd Time (SSB Only)– **ID**: Butte, **MT**: Chouteau, **NJ**: Hunterdon, **NY**: Cayuga, Franklin, Oswego, **NC**: Avery, Richmond, **VT**: Rutland,

WA3QNT 5 Star – **HI**: Honolulu (3), **MT**: Lake (2), Sanders (2), **NJ**: Essex (1), Sussex (1), **NY**: Yates (3), **OH**: Lucas (1), **OR**: Benton (1), Linn (2), **PA**: Snyder (1)

AG6V USACA (CW Only) – **TX**: Sterling

NF0N 6th Time – **IN**: Rush, **KS**: Jefferson, **KY**: Fulton, **LA**: St James, **ND**: Emmons, McIntosh, **PA**: Montour, **TN**: Lake, Weakley, **TX**: Real, **VA**: Louisa

N1QY All CW – **GA**: Brantly, **VA**: Warren

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

MAY 20 Through JUNE 19, 2024

Beginning Account Balance \$15,086.45

Income:

Savings Account Interest	\$	
Awards Income		
Misc Income		
Membership Income	278.81	
Logger Distribution Income	39.40	
Nat'l Convention		

Total Income	\$318.21
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Expenses:

Awards Expenses	\$	80.17
Misc. Expenses note 1		80.00
Contest expenses		
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)		
Refund		20.00
Total expenses		\$ 180.17

Net Income Less Expenses \$138.04

Cash Balance \$15,224.49

Checking Account Balance \$ 2,639.31

Savings Account Balance 12,585.18

Total all accounts \$15,224.49

NOTE 1- Corporation fee to State of Kansas

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$5874.90, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$9,349.59.



Bill, K0DEQ, MARAC Treasurer

State QSO Parties

Courtesy WA7BNM

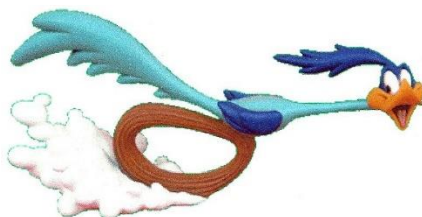
Here are the parties for this month:

July

Alabama ± Alabama QSO Party 1500Z, Jul 27 to 0300Z, Jul 28, 2024



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 President@marac.org

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Kerry Long, W4SIG
901-331-1881, Secretary@marac.org

Treasurer: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ
573-364-1011 Treasurer@marac.org

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, GreatLakes@marac.org

North Central Director: Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
402-494-6070, NorthCentral@marac.org

Northeast Director: Al Kaiser, N1API
NorthEast@marac.org

South Central Director: Vacant

Pacific Director: Paige Butler, W0FLZ
360-652-4680, Pacific@marac.org

Southeast Director: Dave Splitt, KE3VV
202-669-6630, SouthEast@marac.org

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