



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

By Kerry, W4SIG MARAC Secretary

Wow, what a month! Nothing seems to hit harder than the storm destruction from Hurricane Helene that affected much of the Southeast of the US. Some reports have come in from our fellow county hunters regarding damage to their property. Our thoughts and prayers go out to so many who have lost so much when caught in the path of this very destructive storm. Don't plan on driving through western North Carolina on I-40 any time soon as full sections of the interstate fell into the raging rivers below. This reminds us to have your backup generators ready and on standby, especially as we enter the colder months ahead. Nothing like not having heat on a cold wintery day.

In about a week, the 2024 MARAC National Convention will kick off in Bridgeport, WV. We've been anticipating this event for a long time and can't wait to see so many of you there. Thanks to **K8II**, **N8OYY**, and **W8OP**, for their tremendous efforts at putting this fun event together. So many cool prizes! During the convention will be a MARAC official Board Meeting on Oct 12 at 1PM EST. Check out the marac.org webpage for info on how to call in. Lots of big items on the agenda that you will want to know about! Until then, keep your rigs warm and the county spotting page up and running as many

of us head to the convention putting out counties from our mobiles. PLEASE remember to spot mobiles that you hear and relay for others, especially the mobiles who need to work each other. They will certainly appreciate your help!

Many changes have been made to the Final Countdown listings in this article. So good to see

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many of you creep closer to your Whole Ball of Wax goals. Keep me updated on any changes to your listings.

Speaking of Whole Ball of Wax awards, check out a couple of interesting articles in this issue regarding those who have put out so many last counties, and also the one from **AG6V** chronicling her journey to the USACA award platform!

Heard on the air mobile this month include a whole lotta **K8ZZ** in OH, MI, WV and NC, **KA3QLF** was in TN, **K6YEK** across the northern US, **W4SIG** in UT and ID, **NU0Q** and **N4CD** ran a lot of IA and TX in their qso parties, **N0KV/W0GXQ** were in central CO, and **WY0A** ran thru a bit of KS.

October marks the end of the State QSO Party season for 2024. The year finishes with a bang with a total of seven parties, some of them in huge states like CA and PA. Go get 'em!

Have a great month and try to enjoy the fall colors wherever you may be! Happy Hunting!

73

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!



Prizes

We will also have a prize table. Each person attending should bring a door prize which can range from something you make (several beautiful afghans have been given away at conventions in the past!) to something you purchase. It need not be ham radio related. Some big hits in the past have been: Bottles of liquor/wine, gift certificates/cards, atomic clocks, coax, atlases, log books, tools, gas cards, etc. Remember we have many female friends attending so keep them in mind also.

Grand Prize – FT-891 100w Mobile Rig. HF/50M



2nd Main Prize Dell Inspiron 15 (3520) Laptop-15.6" Touchscreen, Windows 11, 16GB Memory, 1TB Solid State Drive, 12th Generation Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-1255U, 4-Cell Battery, 54Whr (Integrated)

Two (2) \$50 BP/Amoco gift cards

Two (2) 50 Exxon/Mobil gift cards

Bugali Iambic Paddles (Special Edition White)- Donated by Sandra N0XYL in memory of Lowell KB0BA



Ladies prize(s)- More to be added



Embossed Hamel Sherpa Throw – 50" x 60"

Two Laser – Etched Destination West Virginia Cutting & Serving Boards
Each board crafted from natural, sustainable Bamboo
First board 11" x 8 -3/4" x 1/2", Second board 13 -1/2" x 11-3/4" x 5/8" State Shaped



Have something you want to donate?
Contact: w8op@comcast.net

*For prize drawings, must be present at the banquet,
and eating dinner with the group.*

Hurricane Helene Report

By Sandy WB4EVH

I survived the hurricane. Some damage to antennas. Out buildings and trees in yard are toast. Took my friend and his crew using heavy equipment 2 days to clear my road. No power expected for 6-8 weeks. Friend gave me a generator. Didn't have correct plug so could not pump water. In Albany at son's. Trying to buy generator and cables. Can't find any big ones.

73,
Sandy WB4EVH

WBOW

By Kerry W4SIG

As you have probably noticed, there have been some really nice Whole Ball of Wax (WBOW) awards issued lately. Like you, this brings joy to my heart! All those years of chasing the counties to finally cross the finish line is such a sigh of relief and a sense of accomplishment! Naturally, for these WBOWs to occur, someone has to gear-up their HF rig in the mobile and head out to supply those last counties. Sometimes it is for the final county for USACA, and many times it is the final county for one of MARAC's dozens of other awards. They are all quite an accomplishment!

I am reminded of recent commendable efforts by **AB7NK** to finish them all for **AG6V**, **N4CD** to finish them all for **K0MAF**, and **K8ZZ** to finish them all for **K0DEQ**. These folks drove many hours for a special trip to help their fellow county hunters reach their goals.

I did a quick search of the MARAC award database to see who has given out the most WBOW awards from their mobile. I may have missed some with my random search, but here are ones that stand out to me:

N4CD: 55
N8KIE: 45
K8ZZ: 40
KB6UF: 40
W4SIG: 22
AB7NK: 19
K5GE: 18
W0GXQ: 16

Again, congratulations to those finishing up one of the many WBOW awards. And THANK YOU to those many mobiles that go way, way out of their way to assist their fellow county hunter! Now....check out that Final Countdown list and see if YOU can help someone finish up theirs!

Important Notes from Awards Secretary

By Phil, AB7RW, MARAC Awards Secretary

The latest issue of the MARAC awards manual can be found on the MARAC.org website under "Awards" and is dated January 23, 2023. If you are working on an award, you probably should look up the award in the awards manual to see if you are heading in the correct direction. The award could have gone through some changes. The manual contains the latest up-dates. One item of interest is on page seven titled FEES. It lists the latest changes for plaques and certificates.

Another item, if you have intentions to send a plaque as a thank you, it would be wise to **contact that operator to see if they would like a plaque**. Some members are overloaded and have no room on their wall for another plaque. Some have told me, PLEASE, no plaques. Perhaps a certificate would be ideal.

If you work a non-MARAC member that gave you a last county that resulted in an award and you want to thank him or her, I would like to send them a certificate, at no cost to you. All you need to do is send me an email with the information and the recipient's address. With the certificate I will enclose information on how to become a County hunter and perhaps you can take credit for signing up a new county hunter.

Also, please go to marac.org, go to the County Hunter Database, put in your callsign and check the data to see if it is up to date. Some applications are showing errors on phone numbers, email addresses and names spelled differently than the database has. If you need to update your file, send an email to K2MF or AB7RW. Also look to see if all your awards are listed.

Thanks!
Phil, AB7RW



USACA AWARD STATUS

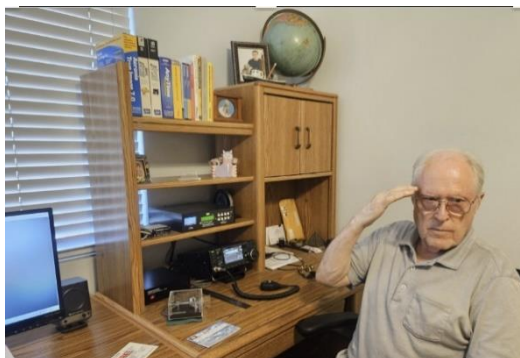
By Kerry W4SIG

BIG NEWS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE MARAC BOARD MEETING IN WEST VIRGINIA. Call in to the Board meeting on Oct 12 at 1PM EST and listen in. Many, many man hours have been put into this project. Are you ready?????

Arkansas Odyssey-Editor's Correction

By Kerry W4SIG

Editor's correction: Last month, I incorrectly labeled this pic. My sincere apologies to Tom, **K7REL**! Congrats on working so many of the counties and winning on of the awards during Rick's (**AI5P**) expedition across the Natural State!



Tom, K7REL

K8ZZ: Mobile Eyeball QSOs

By Kerry W4SIG

One of Ed's favorite things to do while on the road, other than eating at Dairy Queens, is stopping by for visits with many of his fellow county hunters and ham radio contesters. Pictured below it Ed with contester and worldwide DXer, Rick **NE8Z**.

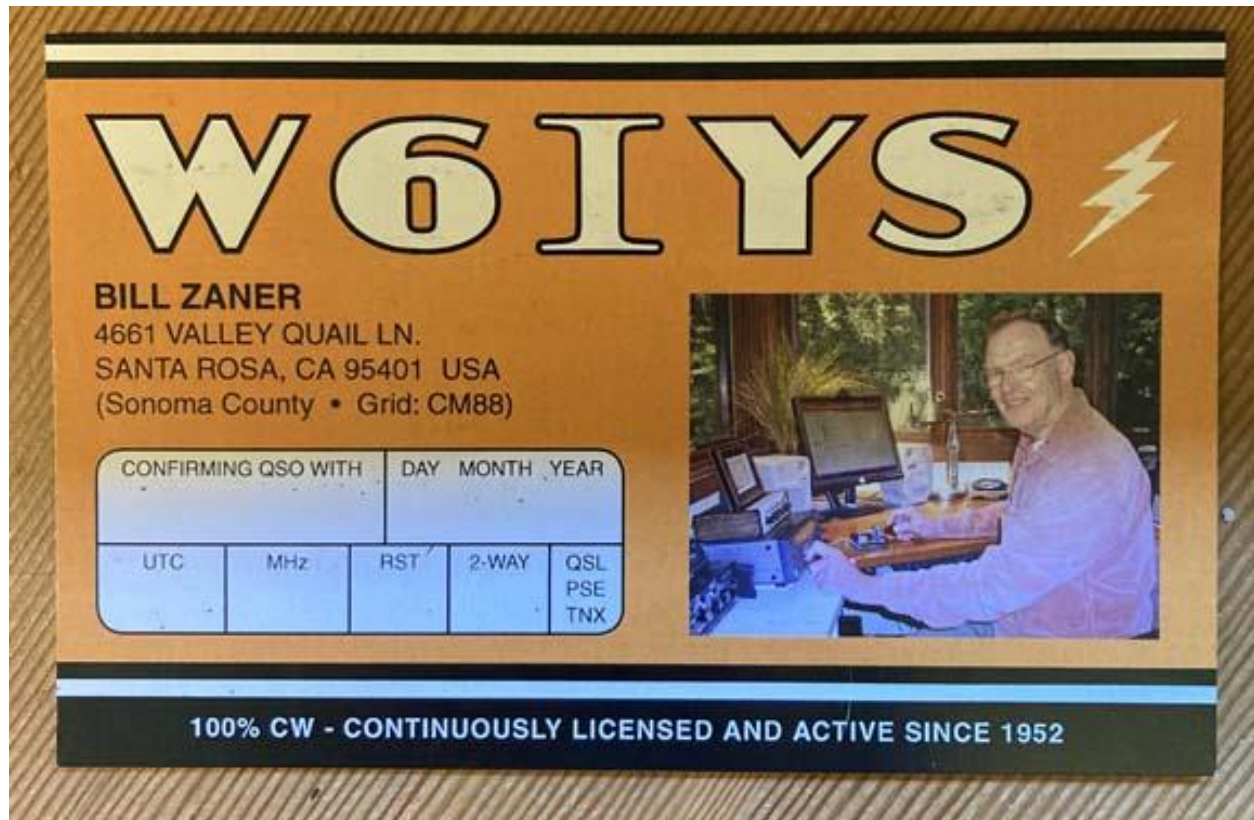


Donna AG6V County Journey

By Donna AG6V

USA-CA #1275 WBOW all CW #169-- DONE !
IT has been quite a journey, and many of you participated.
Thank you for your help.

The journey began on the 31st of March, 2013, after my Elmer, Bill Zaner, W6IYS, suggested that I start this quest. Probably many of you remember Bill and his wife Geri – Bill obtained USA-CA #1013 in December, 2000, and his was USA-CA all CW #59.



That March of 2013, I went back through my then meager log and found 75 counties confirmed, or 2.44% of the total.

The year 2010 had the first confirmations, since I was licensed in the fall of 2009. My first HF contact was with AB2ZT California to NJ on August 26th, 2010. It was pretty steady progress from there:

year %	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
complete	20.96	35.45	46.75	62.48	76.06	83.46	94.05	98.28

Along the way, I noted in my log that MARAC mobiles came to the journey around 2015. In 2018, I discovered SOTA and POTA. A bit more difficult to determine counties, and to get QSLs, but every bit helped.

But it was mostly MARAC mobiles !

Alphabetical by callsign, and just a representation:

confirmations	Callsign
78	AB7NK on cw!
36	AB7RW
110	AG6OW
53	K0DEQ
40	K0FG
43	K3IMC
200	K8ZZ
60	KB6UF
60	KB6UF
3	KE0TT
41	N0KV
196	N4CD
61	NF0N
51	NU0Q
121	W0GXQ
34	W3DYA
233	W4SIG
49	W8OP
17	W9MSE
38	WB0PYF
6	WB8III

Note that these are not the total number of contacts I had with a specific person, but rather the contacts I used for the USA CA award. For example, I have W4SIG for 421 total contacts but only 233 were used in my application. I have 357 contacts with K8ZZ and 292 with N4CD.

Notable are the 78 contacts, using CW, from AB7NK – mostly a SSB op! In fact, Mary and Neil made a four day trip in the heat of summer to give me the Last One for WBOW – Sterling County, TX on July 22, 2024.

Photo of Mary AB7NK mailing the MRC for Sterling, TX.



In this list above, some of you may be wondering at the 110 confirmations by AG6OW. Linda is my travel-loving spouse. She makes frequent trips to the East Coast for alumna "work". I outfitted her with a Buddipole and an Elecraft KX3 and annotated hardcopy state maps showing the counties I needed. Somehow she managed to convince several friends and her sister to accompany her on multiple trips – it really helps to have a buddy to put up and steady the Buddipole!

As I got to 10 and fewer counties left, my excitement grew. Thanks to Kerry W4SIG for posting the lists of "almost done". Several mobiles could feel it and made special trips to provide a state LC. For example. K8III and KB6UF.

As for the CW side of it all, I have dabbled in digital, and have been known to pick up a microphone. But all my award quests are CW only, just like my Elmer. The USA-CA was no different – all CW. The MARAC database has 168 all CW USA-CA awards listed, so that makes my award #169 for all CW USA-CA. I am proud of it, and will be framing it.



One quirky side note – my application for the USA CA was approved by Brian Bird NX0X, and the certificate mailed from Duluth, MN on August 1st 2024. It took 13 days to arrive in my little town in Washington, more time than for a certificate to get to Germany, mailed the same day! And then, it took five days (5) to go from the post office in my little town to travel 1 ½ blocks to my private mailbox company. Some nail biting there, since the USPS said it was

“delivered” on the 13th. I had to wait until the 18th to actually have it hit my mailbox.

But the journey is over. Thank you for all the help. CU on the air.
73 es 88, AG6V



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 award.

Awards Issued:		Awards Issued:	
Call	Award	Level	Cert. No.
KE4UP	RAN ALL OREGON		32
KE4UP	RAN ALL WASHINGTON		37
KE4UP	RAN ALL IDAHO		40
KE4UP	RAN ALL COLORADO		35
KE4UP	RAN ALL ALASKA		28
N5MLP	RAN ALL KENTUCKY		28
N1API	COUNTY CHALLENGE	13000	8
N1API	SINGLE BAND 15M	2000	5

Roadrunner Awards:		
Call	LC Count	Cert. No.
KI4JZW	50	366
K8ZZ	1900	3
NF0N	475	45

MARAC Openings

By Kerry W4SIG

There are numerous opportunities for YOU to get involved in MARAC. We currently have openings for 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:



- NS2N** Paul Antos, MARAC #2044, USACA# 622, Worked all Counties 6 times, Bingo II, All CW II, RoadRunner Level 100, 1st Place award winner in several MARAC contests
- N0LXJ** Sharon Mathew, MARAC#3101, USACA#1165, Worked all Counties 2 times, Bingo, RoadRunner Level 225, Half of Best Mobile of the Year Team with W0NAC three years, Native American County Award, US Presidents County Award, Ran all CO, NM, DE, USA County Digital Level #1000
- KN6ZB** Jim Bouge, MARAC#2824, USAC#1007, RoadRunner Level 150, BINGO, Former MARAC MRC Bureau Manager



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.

N8BGF and KC8WRP - John and Joan Sebastian have rejoined after a 2 year absence. Welcome back!

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 – **LA:** Bienville **TN:** Crockett
- W4SIG** 40M CW—**LA:** Avoyelles
- W4SIG** 40M SSB – **HI:** Kalawao, Maui, **NE:** Rock, **NJ:** Hudson, Middlesex, **NY:** Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, **OR:** Linn
- W4SIG** Bingo Cinco – **AK:** 1st, **HI:** Kalawao, **NJ:** Essex, Ocean, Warren, **NY:** Rockland, **PA:** Jefferson, Lancaster, Philadelphia, **WV:** Pocahontas
- W4SIG** 17M – **NY:** Albany, Tioga, **PA:** Bradford, Indiana, McKean, Northumberland, Wayne
- 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 – **SD:** Haakon **WY:** Goshen
- N0KV** Mobile to Mobile – **GA:** Wheeler, **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
- N0KV** A Prefix – **CA:** Del Norte, **GA:** Bacon, Dodge, **KY:** Greenup, Knott, **LA:** West Feliciana, **MS:** Wilkinson, **SC:** Edgefield, **VA:** Mathews
- 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	K Prefix – GA : Newton
NU0Q	N Prefix – AL : Coosa, AR : Randolph, Scott, IA : Obrien, MS : Grenada, Smith, NY : Wyoming, OH : Adams, TN : Moore, Van Buren
NU0Q	4 th Time – HI : Kalawao
NU0Q	3 rd Time CW – HI : Kalawao, KY : Hancock, Morgan, MI : Charlevoix, NY : Ontario, Wayne, TX : Bee, Liberty
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 : Nottaway
W9DC:	Bingo III – AR : Madison, KY : Letcher, NY : Livingston, TX : 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, **VA:** Accomack, Buchanan, Northumberland
- N1API** CW – **NJ:** Camden, **NY:** Clinton, Essex, Herkimer, Lewis, Washington, **PA:** Mifflin, Wyoming, **VT:** Franklin, Grand Isle, Rutland
- 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 – **IN:** Delaware
- W0SK** USACA – **HI:** Kalawao
- W8OP** Bingo – **HI:** Maui, **KS:** Chase
- KC3X** CW 6th Time – **GA:** Heard, **KY:** Henderson, Letcher, **OH:** Darke, Mercer
TN: Houston, Trousdale **TX:** Comanche, Duval, Tyler
- K8II** USACA – **HI:** Kalawao
- K7REL** CW 6th Time – **TX:** Duvall, Tyler, Willacy
- LY5A** 5th Time – **CO:** Hinsdale, **GA:** Screven, **KY:** Menifee, **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, **NC**: Avery, Richmond
- 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)
- NF0N** 6th Time – **LA**: St James, **PA**: Montour, **TN**: Lake, Weakley, **TX**: Real
- N1QY** All CW – **GA**: Brantly, **VA**: Warren
- K5WAF** All CW – **KY**: Todd, **GA**: Crawford, **NY**: Greene
- K5WAF** All SSB – **WV**: Morgan
- DL3DXX** All CW 2nd Time – **MT**: Sanders, **TX**: Dimmit, Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Zapata, Zavala

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

Treasurer's Report

By Bill, K0DEQ

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

AUG 20 Through SEPT 19, 2024

Beginning Account Balance		\$14,325.79
Income:		
Savings Account Interest	\$	
Awards Income		
Misc Income		
Membership Income	220.51	
Logger Distribution Income		
Nat'l Convention	92.16	
Total Income		\$ 312.67
Expenses:		

Awards Expenses	\$ 108.95
Misc. Expenses	
Contest expenses	
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)	
Refunds	4.00

Total expenses	\$112.95
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Net Income Less Expenses	199.72
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Cash Balance	\$14,525.51
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Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,935.62	
Savings Account Balance	12,589.89	
Total all accounts		\$14,525.51

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$5870.90, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$8654.61



Bill, K0DEQ, MARAC Treasurer

State QSO Parties

Courtesy WA7BNM

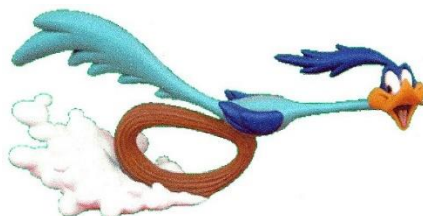
October

California	± California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6, 2024
Nevada	± Nevada QSO Party	0300Z, Oct 12 to 2100Z, Oct 13, 2024

Arizona	± Arizona QSO Party	1500Z, Oct 12 to 0500Z, Oct 13, 2024
Pennsylvania	± Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 0400Z, Oct 13, 2024 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 13, 2024
South Dakota	± South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 12 to 1800Z, Oct 13, 2024
New York	± New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20, 2024
Illinois	± Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21, 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**

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Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Kerry Long, W4SIG
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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

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Appointed Positions

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