

Volume 55 May 2025 Number 5

# **Thoughts from the Board**

By Kerry, W4SIG MARAC Secretary

What a month!! The Michigan Mini really kicked off a lot of mobile activity the last several weeks and continues as folks meander back home. More on that later. Thanks to all MARAC members who voted on creating a new appointed position, the USACA Records Custodian. Shortly thereafter, Barry **K2MF**, was appointed by **K8ZZ** to assume this position. Barry has already put in thousands of hours performing this role, so it made sense for him to continue. PLEASE read Barry's extremely informative article in this issue of the RoadRunner. Lots of legacy news regarding MARAC and county hunting that I find fascinating! Thanks Barry for all you do for your fellow members!

Now, back to the mobile activity for the month. **W0GXQ/N0KV** made a beautiful drive mobile run through CO, UT, OR, WA, ID, MT, and WY. They had a great time, other than the deer Barry hit with his truck in WY....yikes! **K3IMC** made a special mobile trip in GA to help AB7NK finish them all up for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. **NA8W** was heard mobile in FL, **K0FG** in MO, **N9JF** in IN, **K8II** in WV/MD, **W0FLZ** in WY/WA, and **NF0N** in SD/MN.

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K4YT made a fabulous run of almost half of GA. Speaking of GA, thanks to AD4EB and AC6ZM for going mobile in the GA QSO Party. K0AP and W0BH put out a lot in the NE QSO Party as well.

AB7NK/K7SEN were heard trying out a new mobile setup before they make a run this month to put out all NV. Let's not forget KB6UF who made his second (and first successful!)

trip to the highly coveted 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Alaska. Thanks to Ron, many grabbed this extremely hard-to-run county. And Ron finished up his last county for Mobile Diamond in the process! Congrats!

Then there was the Michigan Mini mobile stampede!! WA9DLB, N4CD, N8MD, K8II, KA9JAC/KB9YVT all made their way to Midland, MI. Also, AB7RW, W0GXQ/NF0N,K3IMC, KB6UF, N8OYY all have put out (and continue to run) counties on the way to and from the Mini.

Jeff, **N4RKK**, has provided us with hundreds of POTA spots on our county hunting spot site. Thanks to Jeff! He also informs me that he has to take a hiatus from the airwaves for awhile. So, if you are a POTA chaser, please help fill in the gaps with county postings. Thanks!

Please pay special attention to the articles on County Hunter of the Year (CHOTY) and District Director nomination periods; they end in a few weeks. Get those nominations in!

The MARAC Board had an official meeting this month. The unofficial minutes are included at the end of this RoadRunner issue for your perusal.

Congrats to all who either reached some tremendous goals this month and others who are edging closer. LOTS of State QSO Parties planned for this month! See article below.

73 and Happy Hunting!

Kerry W4SIG MARAC Secretary & RoadRunner Editor



W4SIG/MM

# 2025 Michigan Mini

By Dorie, N8WTQ

The 2025 MARAC Michigan Mini Convention was held April 24-26, 2025 at the SpringHill Suites in Midland, Michigan. From reports I've received, everyone had an excellent time. Some folks were there that hadn't been in years and got to meet some fellow county hunters for the first time. Many thanks to Dorie, **N8WTQ**, for once again hosting this fun event! Pictures will be in the next edition of the RoadRunner.



# **Dayton Hamvention**

By Kerry W4SIG

MARAC will once again have a booth at the Dayton Hamvention in 2025. We will be in Building 5 at Booth 5103. Thanks to Mike, **NF0N**, for spearheading this effort. He has several other club members who will help him run the booth. We have created beautiful new informational cards on MARAC and the USACA award that we will be passing out to potential new county hunters. Make sure you drop in for a visit if you are at this annual ham extravaganza!



## **MARAC Election Announcement**

## By Ron, KF7ZN, MARAC Election Coordinator

This time of the year brings our Officer and Director elections. Please be aware that the Board has approved dates for the nomination period for director positions from March 1 through May 15 and I will be sending out the ballot, if needed in June. This year we will be voting for the MARAC Pacific and Northeast District Director positions.

If you have a nomination, please email me with the information. If it is not a selfnomination please make sure that you have the nominee's permission.

Here are the areas/states that these directors represent.

#### Pacific:

AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA, VE7, VE8, VY1, VY3, Asia, Pacific

### Northeast:

CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT, VE1, VE2, VE9, VY2, Europe

Here is a description of the role and its responsibilities.

Responsibilities of MARAC District Director:

- Shall adopt all policies of MARAC in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws
- Serves a 3-year term, with the option of volunteering for subsequent terms
- Participates in Board discussions regarding topics related to MARAC. This can be via email or during periodic (usually monthly) conference calls
- Attend and participate in official Board Meetings via conference call. These meetings are held when needed, usually about 4 per year. During these meetings make motions and vote on orders of business. This includes the MARAC annual Board meeting usually held in July.
- Act as a focal point of communications for members of your District when issues or questions arise.
- Serve as a liaison of communications to an appointed MARAC position
- Be creative in finding ways to assist MARAC in supporting its members and growing our club

For more information about the role of the officers please reach out to our current officers or see the MARAC website, then go to About, and then Bylaws. We will let you know before June 1 the status of each position and the nominations.

73! MARAC Election Coordinator - Ron, KF7ZN at rglogan73@gmail.com



# 2024 County Hunter of the Year

By Kerry W4SIG

It is time to begin the 2024 SSB and CW County Hunter of the Year (**CHOTY**) nomination process. It is the top honor of recognition for the year. Please take this time to nominate who you think is deserving of consideration.

Please read below for important dates and deadlines associated with the 2024 CHOTY Process.

- 1) 3/5/25 Nomination period begins for both SSB and CW CHOTY
- 2) 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024 is the 12-month period of activity associated with nominations for 2024. Nomination guidelines can be found in the Award Rules section of the marac.org website
- 3) 5/15/2025 Nomination period ends at 11:59pm Pacific Daylight Time. (Nominations should be sent to Darl, NA8W, MARAC Great Lakes District Director <a href="mailto:na8w@arrl.net">na8w@arrl.net</a>).
- 4) 5/15 through 5/25/2024 Awards Committee reviews nominations and determines up to three individuals who will appear as nominees for each category (SSB and CW) on the election ballot.

5) 5/26/2024 Final list of nominees for each category along with supporting documentation (nomination justification and biographical information) forwarded to the Election Coordinator for publication in the June issue of the *RoadRunner*.

- 6) June 2025 Election Coordinator conducts an election via electronic voting service to determine winners.
- 7) July 2025 Winners announced during the Annual MARAC meeting in July.

# **USA-CA Legacy Report**

By Barry, K2MF MARAC USACA Records Custodian

## The Legacy of the USA-CA Award: A New Era for County Hunters

The USA Counties Award (USA-CA) has been one of the most prestigious honors for amateur radio operators since it was first announced in the May, 1961 issue of CQ Magazine. For decades, this award had recognized county hunters who dedicated themselves to working and confirming by QSL every county in the United States.

However, in late 2023, CQ Magazine ceased hardcopy publication, leaving many to wonder about the future of this iconic award. Thankfully, after rounds of deliberation by the MARAC BOD, in October, 2024 MARAC stepped in and launched an entirely new USA-CA program, the initiative for which is intended to continue the tradition and prestige that made the CQ Magazine-sponsored USA-CA so significant for county hunters for 63 years and to give the new award a flare and identity of its own.

## A Rich History and a Difficult Transition in 1997

Over its 63-year history, six (6) dedicated volunteer USA-CA Records Custodians managed the award, using pen and paper to record assignments in date-keyed ledgers. As technology advanced over the years, MARAC took the initiative to add top-tier (WBOW) award recipients to its own database, but the lower-level USA-CA-500 through USA-CA-3000 recipient records were never transcribed by the Custodians into any digital form of storage and retrieval.

This gap in the records became a massive project for me as I worked to support the new MARAC-sponsored USA-CA and preserve the history of the CQ Magazine USA-CA. As I gathered materials to transcribe over six decades of USA-CA records into a set of tables of 7 tables in a single workbook, I began to uncover a rich history that tells the story of "how we got here today from where we were then".

One particularly challenging chapter of this story occurred in late 1997, marking what we call the "1997 USA-CA records loss". Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY (USA-CA Records Custodian #4), was transferring the appointed position to Ted Melinosky Jr., K1BV (USA-CA Records Custodian #5) and during this transfer, the 36 years of USA-CA hardcopy records dating from 1961 through 1997 were reportedly shipped and never delivered. It then became apparent that they were irrevocably and irretrievably lost!

Ted found himself in a very tough position: He had to start fresh, creating a new date-keyed ledger to continue the USA-CA assignments. Fortunately, and thanks to a practice that was initiated in 1962 by Clif Evans Jr., K6BX (USA-CA Records Custodian #1), the monthly CQ Magazine [USA-CA Honor Roll] announcement boxes in the [Awards] columns kept track of all assigned serial award numbers, and this served as a tool which gave Ted the ability to pick up the serial numbering precisely where the lost records left off.

Ted held the job and managed the USA-CA program for an impressive 21.5 years (the longest tenure ever), and he transferred that ledger to his successor, Brian Bird, NXØX in 2019 (USA-CA Records Custodian #6), who utilized it to assign USA-CAs right through the final ones he processed in September, 2024.

## A Herculean Effort to Recover Lost Data

The 1997 USA-CA records loss primarily impacted the assignment dates in the "lower" USA-CA-500 through USA-CA-3000 levels of the program. While the assignment dates for the *All Counties* (WBOW) awards were safely preserved through MARAC's DB and the [Awards] column pages in CQ Magazine, backfilling the missing assignment dates for the lower levels of the USA-CA became a monumental task.

The digital archives of CQ Magazine, which are available on the https://hamcall.net/website, were used as the primary resource to provide PDFs for download and then the serial numbers and call signs were manually transcribed from those PDFs into the new workbook during November, 2024.

December, 2024 marked the start of error and typo corrections and the cross-referencing of 3,780 unique USA-CA-500 recipients during the CQ Magazine-sponsorship years with the MARAC DB to associate the MARAC [Call ID] (think of these as personal and unique "ID") numbers to each award recipient who already had

one. Completing this task now permits future connections between the new digital USA-CA records and the MARAC Logger database that would not be easily done otherwise.

When all of the transcriptions were complete, I had all of the assigned award number and call sign data for what ended up being exactly 12,987 records, and because it was never common practice to include the assignment dates in the CQ Magazine [Awards] columns for the lower-level awards, there were still thousands of missing assignment dates which could NOT be extrapolated from those applicants who did NOT receive lower-level awards that were assigned on the <a href="mailto:same date">same date</a> they applied for and received the WBOW, for which we had all of <a href="mailto:those assignment">those assignment</a> dates from the [Awards] column pages of CQ Magazine and from the MARAC DB.

But there was some very significant help primarily by two of the earlier USA-CA Records Custodians that I would like to personally acknowledge.

Once the USA-CA program got into full gear by April, 1962 it was common for the USA-CA Records Custodian to highlight the achievements of award recipients and occasionally provide some past assignment dates presented in a human-interest fashion in the [Awards] column, so this was a modest start toward recovering some assignment dates, but it required actually reading each [Awards] column. Then starting in April, 1971 (which was nearly a decade from when the program first began in 1961), Ed Hopper, W2GT (USA-CA Records Custodian #2) isolated the applicants who were reported in the accompanying [USA-CA Honor Roll] announcement boxes into a new [Awards Issued] section of the column which made them easier to find, but including the assignment dates in "the story" still wasn't a priority for any lower-level award recipients. Occasionally, I got lucky.

Even more help came from Dorothy Johnson, WB9RCY (USA-CA Records Custodian #3), who, starting in the summer of 1984, meticulously tracked assignment dates for lower-level awards and printed all of them in the [Awards Issued] section of the column, and her diligent work to do this through March, 1993 made it significantly easier to piece together almost 10 full years of missing assignment dates in the recovery process. This was absolutely HUGE!

I therefore offer a very large and posthumous THANK YOU to WB9RCY for having had the incredibly good foresight to include all of those assignment dates in 10 years of her columns, and after all the assignment date data from that period of time was entered, there were still just shy of 3,950 missing assignment dates out of 12,987 records, but I'd certainly made significant progress in the recovery effort!

Appeals on the County Hunter Forum at countyhunterweb.org to backfill missing assignment dates yielded only a few results, and I appreciated everyone who got in touch with me to help, but it really wasn't enough. What to do?

## Recovering as Many Missing Assigned Dates as Humanly Possible

It is no secret that none of us are getting any younger and there are many different reasons why so many of our amateur radio and county hunting compatriots are either no longer with us, or are no longer (or never were) reachable via email.

But I realized that if I could devise a procedure to easily "flag" which of the 3,780 unique USA-CA-500 recipients during the CQ Magazine-sponsorship years still had missing assignment dates and are (still?) reachable via email, then I could launch a one-time email campaign and reach out to everyone possible to ask them if they could find and provide the missing assignment dates for their USA-CAs. This task, while daunting, was absolutely critical to restoring as much of the full history of the USA-CA program as I possibly could.

I started this part of the project in January and finished it by early March, 2025. So far I have had better results than I ever thought I could possibly have! I sent what I estimate to be close to 600 personalized emails and have received responses from approximately 35% of those whom I attempted to contact. Each award recipient who replied had an interesting and different story to tell. So far, I have received nearly 250 date backfills and more are on the way every day as USA-CA recipients from years gone by find them. I have also received many queries from this interesting group about what plans there are, if any, to keep the USA-CA program going and I always provide pointers to MARAC's website and other modern county hunting tools to anyone who asks.

## A New Era: MARAC Keeps the USA-CA Program Alive

Since MARAC launched its new USA-CA program, significant progress has been made with, 1) preserving the history of those who earned the original CQ Magazine-sponsored USA-CAs, and, 2) updating the new program to the 21st century, so that applications for this new USA-CA are now consistent with the same procedures and rules that MARAC utilizes for processing all of its awards, including that having physical QSLs are no longer required to be eligible for it.

MARAC assigned its first 5 USA-CAs in October, 2024 and the club has already assigned 31 USA-CAs so far, including one in the USA-CA-2500 level for LA8OM (#1403), who received his previous 4 USA-CA levels from CQ Magazine between 2008 and 2023. Who will become the first person to receive a USA-CA-3000 award or WBOW from MARAC?

While the work ahead remains extensive, these steps mark a clear commitment to honoring the county hunting community's legacy and all of the effort that each of the 6 CQ Magazine USA-CA Records Custodians accomplished over the 63 years they were "on the job".

## **Looking Ahead**

The new MARAC-sponsored USA-CA program carries with it the weight and honor of 63 years of history, including the recovery of lost data (missing assignment dates) and the continuation of a tradition beloved by county hunters in all parts of the world. The dedication of past and present volunteers who support county hunting and mobile operations is a testament to the passion of amateur radio operators who tirelessly continue to make over-the-air contacts with each other across county lines.

Internationally, for county hunters, the USA-CA remains more than just an award; it represents a journey - a pursuit of connecting with fellow amateur radio enthusiasts across the USA, one county at a time. As MARAC breathes new life into this iconic program, it will help to ensure that the spirit of county hunting will continue on for years to come.

## **Acknowledgements**

I offer sincere thanks to the following county hunters, some of the very first recipients of the USA-CA, the management teams of club stations and amateur radio societies as well as some notable hams who have all been extraordinarily helpful to piece together some of the rich history of the USA-CA and backfill missing assignment dates where they could find them. Here is a small assortment of some who were instrumental in helping to reclaim this rich history:

<u>K4BAI</u> USA-CA-1000 #1 assigned in 9/1961 - John's USA-CA-500 #406 was assigned in 1964 by W2GT and backdated to 9/1961 when it more properly would have been assigned by K6BX in the first batch of USA-CA-500 awards but was inadvertently overlooked because K6BX had not yet "invented" the system of assignments and he was focused on John having been the <u>only</u> recipient to reach the 1000 level right out of the starting gate... an extraordinary achievement!

W8IQ (formerly W8IBX) USA-CA-500 #1-B and K6SXA USA-CA-500 #1-G both assigned in 9/1961 - Along with K4BAI above, Kurt and Jim were the earliest recipients of the USA-CA-500 award who answered my emails. I was astonished that they replied to me! The first 56 serial numbers for USA-CA-500 recipients (1-A to 1-Z by lottery and 27 to 56 by application received dates) and first 3 serial numbers for USA-CA-1000

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recipients (1 - 3) weren't actually assigned by K6BX until early 1962 and were backdated to between September 1961 and January 1962.

W8SH USA-CA-500 #414 assigned in early 1964 - Dave K1ZZ (formerly K1ZND) USA-CA-500 #526 assigned in mid-1965 and Don K8MFO USA-CA-ALL #1126 assigned in 9/2005 helped to point me in a direction to retrieve the assigned date of the MSU (Michigan State University) radio club which I am still hoping to finally resolve from W8EO in the summer of 2025.

<u>W1MX</u> USA-CA-500 #478 in 4/1965 - The entire management team of the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) radio club possibly has the most organized archives for any university club station anywhere in the USA and they were able to locate the original USA-CA-500 certificate and supply this missing assignment date!

<u>NFØN</u> (formerly WAØKGD) USA-CA-ALL #53 assigned in 3/1971 - Mike is the earliest recipient of the top level award who is today, still actively participating in county hunting and helping county hunters everywhere.

SM6JSM (formerly EA8TY) USA-CA-500 #1610 assigned in 4/1981 - Eric is the archivist for SSA (the Association of Swedish Broadcasting Agents) and has been providing information from USA-CA certificates that several SM operators have donated to the SSA archives over the years. We are in a continuing dialogue with each other.

<u>W7CFR</u> (formerly NØAGW) USA-CA-1000 #724 / USA-CA-500 #1735 assigned in 6/1982 - Foggy was the secretary of MARAC from 1980-1982 (yours truly joined MARAC in 1981 during Foggy's tenure as secretary and has had an unbroken membership ever since :).

<u>AI5P</u> (formerly W5-10353) USA-CA-ALL #387 assigned in 6/1982 - Rick was one of those few people who received at least one USA-CA as an SWL in the 1960s and then later received an entire set of USA-CAs as a licensed amateur radio operator. He also helped to correct a CQ Magazine numbering misprint from 1969 in the records that affected one other USA-CA-1000 recipient as well.

<u>DU9RG/4D9RG</u> USA-CA-1000 #777 and USA-CA-500 #1836 assigned in 5/1983 - Robin was the first amateur radio operator in the Philippines to earn the USA-CA-1000 (out of only 2 total) and USA-CA-500 (out of only 4 total) awards, over 20 years after the very first USA-CAs were ever assigned in 1961-1962.

<u>WA2VQW</u> USA-CA-ALL #591 assigned in 11/1988 – Mike was a prolific writer who authored 2 articles that CQ Magazine published after he earned the WBOW and this led to an offer from WB9RCY and W2VU in 1993 to become the 4th USA-CA Records Custodian, which he had to decline due to "being in the midst of a growing family with

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an XYL and 3 very young children and working" (full time), and that led to the appointment of WA3RTY instead.

<u>WB2CUT</u> USA-CA-500 #2881 assigned in 9/1995 – Rich worked and collected confirmations EXCLUSIVELY from 2m SSB stations and to our knowledge is the only person ever to accomplish this amazing achievement!

NXØX USA-CA-ALL #1096 assigned in 7/2004 – Brian was the 6th and final USA-CA Records Custodian for CQ Magazine between 2019 and 2024, he was the source of authentic information about how he did the job and maintained the records during his tenure, and he graciously and patiently answered all of my silly questions over a several-month period when I embarked on this project.

OH3JF USA-CA-ALL #1221 assigned in 2/2012 – Henry holds a record in the USA-CA program that absolutely nobody else even comes close to having... ask me about this sometime if you're interested! :)

<u>W5RQ</u> (formerly WA5TOS, WB2LZF and W9OIJ) USA-CA-ALL #1237 assigned in 10/2013 – John took 50 years to finish the top level award by working and collecting confirmations EXCLUSIVELY from fixed and portable stations and to our knowledge is the only person ever to have ever earned the WBOW in this fashion!

and... MANY other replies that are still trickling in as I wrote this article.

# The Easter Egg and What MARAC Members and All County Hunters Can Do to Help

The "Easter Egg" is a complete and combined set of lists in all 7 tables of the USA-CA for viewing online which has actually been available for a few months now but not widely publicized. Until all of the USA-CA data gets loaded into the MARAC DB, this page will have to do:

## https://countyhunter.com/Toplist/USA-CA.htm

These lists continue to be updated as data is corrected and new USA-CAs are assigned by MARAC.

Use the [Find in Page] function of your browser to locate yourself in these lists. If any serial number or assigned date information is either missing or not in agreement with your own USA-CA records, please contact me so that the records (and/or the programming which is always a work in progress) may be corrected or modified. Please keep in mind that anyone who was assigned a number that had <u>already</u> been assigned to somebody else (this is called an "errata") has the designation "-A" after the

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serial number. There are a total of 70 of these in the 12,987 records that were assigned by CQ Magazine over 63 years.

Also, if I send an email to you about USA-CA topics, it likely means that I am trying to find some information to backfill or correct some piece of information in the USA-CA records. Please reply to my emails even if you don't have the information for which I am looking, if not for any reason other than to be friendly and to say hello. :)

And lastly, please talk up the new MARAC USA-CA program to county hunters and mobile operators at your amateur radio club meetings and social gatherings. Interest in the program is gaining significant momentum and the club is already benefiting from new and rejoined memberships that would not have otherwise happened if there was no more USA-CA program of any kind.

73, de Barry K2MF MARAC USA-CA Records Custodian



# Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air Special Event

By Mike NF0N

The 2025 **Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air Special Event is taking place May 31-June 15.** Clubs will be activating counties along the expedition trail during this time period. Check out LCTOTA.ORG for more details.

# **2024 MARAC County Contest**

## By John WA4JA

The 2025 contest will be announced soon! It will be the last weekend of July. Please plan to participate and help us grow this contest with more activity

## Member Spotlight-Mike NF0N

By Mike NF0N

I was first licensed as WN0KGD in 1964 and passed my General in 1965 as WA0KGD. My first foray into County Hunting actually was due to the Nebraska Centennial in 1966.

Ham's were given special QSL cards to send to their contacts for the Centennial and I quickly found that I could make many contacts with this QSL and was awarded Centennial Certificate #1 for making the most contacts.

I was working for the State of Nebraska and my travels took me to Bellevue, Nebraska where my County Hunting mentor, Vic Clarence, W0GYM, let me listen and learn all about County Hunting from his nice shack. Vic was USA-CA #6 and travelled many miles between Nebraska and Florida.

Once I had the County Hunting bug, I quickly found I had 500 counties from my contesting and other QSO's and was awarded USA-CA #580 in 1966. I remember working many counties on 40 and 80 SSB, many were also made on 20 on the old CHC/FHC net and later on the Independent County Hunters net which I helped start along with several others.

After many County Hunting trips with others and by myself, I was able to work my last county in 1971, Owen, Indiana from Max, W9SOM, who travelled several hundred miles to get for me. I was able to attend the first three County Hunter Conventions in 1969, 1970 and 1971 and at the 1971 Convention I presented Max with a fine bottle of

Scotch for his efforts. It tasted real good that evening. I am an original member of the 303 award which came out of the first Convention in 1969. Some say that the roots of MARAC began in room 303. This was not an alcohol-free room so there were some free floating ideas you might say.

After working all 3079 Counties for USA-CA #53, I felt I had achieved my goal and at the age of 29 sort of retired from Ham Radio. However County Hunting was always my favorite activity and even when I was out of Ham Radio, it still interested me. In 1981 we moved from Orange County New York, where I was working with IBM to South Sioux City, NE, still with IBM. I had a rather large home and thought it might be interesting to see if my Ham Radio interest was still there. I started with a used Heathkit

SB-102 and today, my whole basement is full of Ham gear, computers and stuff. I still had my interest in County Hunting and on January 1, 2001 I made the decision I was going to work them again but was going to do it multiple ways to keep my interest going. Since that time I have worked them a second time, close on the third, close on CW and working them about 20 different ways. It will take me another 20 years to work them all the different ways so my interest is continuing. You will have to accept me a long time as long as my health is good and the Lord keeps me on this planet. I have found over the years that County Hunters are some of the best friends I have and I think it is because to work all the counties, someone has to help you out. This friendship feeds other friendships and others help others over and over again. This is what keeps my interest going. This was true in 1966 and is still true today.

## Mike Nickolaus, NF0N





# **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:**

## Roadrunner Awards

			Cert.
Call	Award	Level	No.
KB6UF	MOBILE DIAMOND	3077	16
W9DC	ALL CW	3077	169
NFON	ALL SSB II	3077	5
K8MW	ALL 12 METERS	1000	6
AB7NK	USA 4TH TIME	3077	178
AB7RW	ALL 12 METERS	1000	5
AB7RW	ALL 15 METERS	2000	7
W4CMW	USACA	500	3886
N5MLP	ALL SSB IV	3077	1

		Cert.
Call	LC Count	No.
K4YT	1025	17
WOGXQ	1700	4
W4SIG	1325	7



## **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.

K8ZXY – Frank Pavolko (formerly W3FEP) #3181, Mercer Cty, OH – rejoined after an 11 year absence!

# **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!

## **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 who want to help you out!

**K2MF** 40 Meters – HI: Kalawao, MT: McCone

**K2MF** 30 Meters – HI: Kalawao

W4SIG 1x3 Callsigns --- AK: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>

W4SIG 20 CW - TN: Cannon

W4SIG 40M SSB – HI: Kalawao, Maui

**W4SIG** Bingo Cinco – AK: 1<sup>st</sup>, HI: Kalawao

**N4RS** 40M CW – AK: 2<sup>nd</sup>

N5MLP A Prefix – LA: Grant, Vermillion, Vernon MS: Issaquena TN: Hardeman,

Houston, Marshall VA: Mathews WA: Garfield

**N5MLP** W Prefix – AK: First District, GA: Thomas, ME: Aroostook, Franklin,

Picataquis, Somerset, Waldo, NH: Sullivan, RI: Bristol, TX: Blanco

**N0KV** K Prefix – SD: Haakon WY: Goshen

**N0KV** Mobile to Mobile – GA: Wheeler, KY: Knott, Larue, Menifee NC: Catawba,

Lee VA: Lunenburg, Mathews

**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

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**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: Mineral, Roosevelt, OR: Wheeler

**K4YT** 30 Meters – HI: Kalawao, KY: Elliott, NV: Lander

**W4YDY** A Prefix – OH: Putnam PA: Philadelphia VA: Amelia

W4YDY W Prefix – NY: Essex PA: Tioga TX: Dickens, Somervell VA: Floyd

**W4YDY** 1x2 Callsigns—AL: Perry GA: Montgomery, Wheeler, IA: Audubon, TN: Gibson, Meigs

W4YDY SSB III - KY: Gallatin, Meade, VA: Cumberlabnd, Halifax, WV: Pocahontas

NU0Q N Prefix – AL: Coosa. AR: Randolph, Scott, IA: Obrien, MS: Grenada,

Smith, NY: Wyoming, OH: Adams, TN: Moore, Van Buren

NU0Q 4<sup>th</sup> Time – HI: Kalawao

NU0Q 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1x3 Callsigns – GA: Grady, NC: Clay, Jones, OK: Kiowa,

SD: Haakon, VA: Nottaway

**W9DC:** Bingo III – AR: Madison TX: Zavala

W9DC: SSB II: AR: Lafayette, GA: Decatur, KY: Lee

N2IGW USA-CA – HI: Kalawao

N1API N Prefix – MA: Nantucket, MD: St Marys, MS: Issaguena, TN: Moore

N1API W Prefix—HI: Kalawao, IN: Brown, KY: Estill, Harlan, Leslie, Owsley, MD:

Allegany, NY: Esses, NC: Vance, OH: Meigs, VT: Orange, VA: Amelia

N1API 1x3 Callsigns—MD: Worcester, NC: Warren, NH: Sullivan, VA: Accomack,

Buchanan, Northumberland

N1API CW – NJ: Camden, NY: Clinton, Essex, Lewis, Washington, PA: Mifflin

N8CIJ 8th Time – AK: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** 17 Meters – IL: Carroll, Marion, Stephenson, IN: Carroll KY: Johnson

**W0GXQ** 1x2 Calls – CA: Santa Barbara, Solano, GA: Effingham, LA: St Charles,

MS: Union, NE: Brown, Thurston

WOSK USACA – HI: Kalawao

**KC3X** CW 6<sup>th</sup> Time – TX: Duval

K8II USACA – HI: Kalawao

LY5A 5<sup>th</sup> Time – CO: Hinsdale, GA: Screven, KY: Menifee, MN: Fairbault,

Waseca, SD: Edmunds, McPherson, TX: Mitchell, Stephens

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

N8HAM 3rd Time (SSB Only) – ID: Butte, MT: Chouteau

WA3QNT 5 Star – HI: Honolulu (3), MT: Lake (2), NY: Yates (3), OH: Lucas (1)

**NF0N** 6<sup>th</sup> Time – TN: Lake, Weakley

N1QY All CW – GA: Brantly, VA: Warren

**K5WAF** All CW – KY: Todd, NY: Greene

**K5WAF** All SSB – WV: Morgan

**DL3DXX** All CW 2<sup>nd</sup> Time – MT: Sanders, TX: Dimmit, Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb,

Zapata, Zavala

**K8MW** BINGO – **KY**: Nicholas, **WY**: Park

K8MW CW II - TX: Presidio

WB9CIF CW – AL: Choctaw, KY: Grant, Hancock, Henry, Knott, Menifee, Morgan,

Pendelton, Trimble, MI: Charlevoix

**ON4AAC** USACA – CA: Del Norte, Madera, Plumas, CO: Rio Grande, KY: Bell,

Union, MT: Meagher, Mineral, Wheatland

**KM6HB** 5<sup>TH</sup> time – AL: Clarke, Washington, KY: Bourbon, SC: Williamsburg, TX:

Cochran, Foard

**W80P** 3<sup>rd</sup> Time – AR: Scott, ID: Butte, KS: Stafford, TX: Presidio

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, KODEQ

# By Bill, KODEQ Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Treasurer's Report Mar 20 through Apr 19, 2025

Beginning Account Balance Income:	\$14	\$14,479.50		
Savings Account Interest Awards Income Misc Income	\$ 36.86			
Membership Income Logger Distribution Income MI Mini	280.51 19.40 259.17			
Total Income Expenses:	\$ 595.94			
Awards Expenses Misc. Expenses NOTE 1 MI Mini Refunds	104.30 703.10 394.99			
Total expenses	\$ 1202.3	9		
Net Income Less Expenses	( 606.4	5)		
Cash Balance		\$13,873.05		
Checking Account Balance Savings Account Balance	\$ 2,273.99 11,599.06	Ф40 0 <b>7</b> 0 0 <b>5</b>		
Total all accounts		\$13,873.05		

NOTE 1 - \$200 for premium on liability insurance policy; \$503.10 for annual fee to Simply Voting.

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$5696.40, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$8176.65



Bill, K0DEQ, MARAC Treasurer

## **State QSO Parties**

## **Courtesty WA7BNM**

May		
Arizona	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Idaho	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Montana	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Nevada	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Oregon	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Utah	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Washington	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Wyoming	+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4, 2025
Indiana	<u>+</u> Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 3 to 0300Z, May 4, 2025
Delaware	<u>+</u> Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4, 2025
Connecticut	<b>+</b> New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4, 2025 and
		1300Z-2400Z, May 4, 2025
Maine	<b>+</b> New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4, 2025 and
		1300Z-2400Z, May 4, 2025
Massachusetts	<b>+</b> New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4, 2025 and
		1300Z-2400Z, May 4, 2025
New Hampshire	<b>±</b> New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4, 2025 and
		1300Z-2400Z, May 4, 2025
Rhode Island	<b>+</b> New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4, 2025 and

1300Z-2400Z, May 4, 2025

Vermont <u>+ New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 3 to 0500Z, May 4, 2025 and </u>

1300Z-2400Z, May 4, 2025



# MARAC BOARD MEETING (unofficial) MINUTES

April 14 9PM EST

Call Meeting to order. Time: \_\_9 PM EST\_\_

Board Members in attendance:

Officers: Pres, K8ZZ\_\_\_, VP, W0MU \_X\_\_\_, Secretary, W4SIG\_\_X\_\_

Treasurer, K0DEQ\_X\_\_\_,

Directors: Great Lakes, Darl NA8W\_\_X\_, Northeast, Al N1API\_\_X\_\_, South Central,

Bary, N0KV X, North Central, Mike, NF0N X, Pacific, Paige, W0FLZ X,

Southeast, Dave, KE3VV

Guests:

K3IMC, K2MF

1.Agenda Changes/Modifications

#### None

2. Motion to approve minutes of the BOD Meeting held on January 20, 2025. (see attachment)

Discussion:

Motion:\_\_NF0N\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_W0MU\_\_ Aye \_8 Nay \_\_\_0\_ Abstain\_\_0\_\_\_

3. Update from NF0N regarding Dayton Hamvention

Mike has secured the booth, discounted at 50% for a club booth so \$315. We will be in Building 5, Booth 5103 same as last year. Mike has KJ8F and W8OP helping with the booth along with other members who stop by to rest. Mike has large USA county maps with pins for each visitor to select their home county-this was a popular item in years past. We also have new informational handouts as foldable cards with USACA Award and MARAC info on one side and a color picture of the USACA award on the other. Also, we will have a full sized color MARAC USACA Certificate on display to attract guests.

- 4. Update from K8ZZ regarding Michigan Mini No update
- 5. Update from K3IMC regarding new website (to take place after meeting closes) See notes from open session below.
- 6. Nomination periods are active for MARAC District Director positions for Pacific and Northeast districts.

Both existing Directors have submitted their names for the ballot.

7. Nomination periods are open for CHOTY nominations.

NA8W reports that he has received one nomination for both SSB and CW. Nomination period goes til May 15.

8. ARRL article on USACA Award Status

KF7ZN reports that he has been in touch with ARRL several times and has been told that he will hear back within two weeks regarding publishing the article.

### **New Business:**

9. Serving in the newly appointed position of MARAC USACA Records Custodian would credit the appointee to 300 hours of credit/yr toward the Masters Gold award.

Discussion: W4SIG reports that this proposal would be in line with other MARAC appointed positions.

Motion KODEQ 2<sup>nd</sup> W4SIG Aye 8 Nay 0 Abstain 0

10. Cost of sending a pdf to non-members for the USACA award will be \$5 and update of USACA Award Rules as attached.

The entire proposed changes are listed here with proposed changes in RED. They are intended to add a cost for the pdf USACA award for non-members only. Since K3IMC has now written software for online applications, directions are also included in the Rules change. Note that the USACA Awards Rules is a standalone document so as to not confuse new county chasers when they are applying for this initial award as to applying for the 70+ other awards that MARAC has to offer.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COUNTY AWARD

The Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) makes this award available to licensed amateurs (and SWLs) as follows:

A.Award Classes. The award is issued in seven different classes, each a separate achievement. If sufficient number of counties have been contacted, an applicant may apply for more than one class in the same application. Special endorsements will be provided for all one band or all one mode, if requested at the time of application.

Class	Number of	counties
	required	
USA 500	500	
USA 1000	1000	
USA 1500	1500	
USA 2000	2000	
USA 2500	2500	
USA 3000	3000	
USA 3077	ALL	

#### **B.** Conditions

1. This award is available to all licensed amateurs everywhere in the world. The award is issued to an individual (or club) for all contacts made regardless of calls held, operating QTHs, or dates, except that all contacts must have been made from the same DXCC entity. The award is also available to SWLs on a heard basis but only if all contacts were heard from the same DXCC entity.

2. All contacts must be completed two-way contacts by amateur radio, or heard stations in the case of SWL applicants. Confirmation by QSL or electronic confirmations are not required.

- 3. QSOs via repeaters, satellites and phone patches are not valid for this award.
- 4. Contacts using remote station technology are permitted but only if: (1) all contacts are made over a direct RF path between the remote station and the station contacted; (2) The remote station(s) is/are located in only one DXCC entity and this entity is the same as the QTH from which all non-remote contacts are made; (3) The applicant was physically involved in each and every contact, without the use of software making the contact without the presence of the applicant.

## C. County Identity

- 1. The list of counties of the United States includes all of the Louisiana parishes, the four judicial districts of Alaska, and the counties of the other 48 states, including the historical counties in Connecticut. The official list of counties is subject to modification from time to time by the MARAC Board of Directors.
- 2. The applicant may assume that the QTH of a fixed station is as stated on qrz.com for that call sign unless the applicant has reason to believe the QTH may be different in which case the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the QTH at time of the QSO.
- 3. In the case of contacts with a mobile or portable station, the applicant may (unless there is reason to believe otherwise) use the county indicated for that station at time of the QSO as reported on the <a href="https://ch.w6rk.com">https://ch.w6rk.com</a> website or on similar websites used for spotting stations for county hunters.
- 4. In the case of contacts with a station active in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program, the county in which the specified park is located may be used by the applicant but if the specified park is located in more than one county then the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the correct county at time of the QSO.
- 5. In the case of independent cities or federal parks and reservations not located within a county, the applicant may claim any one of the adjoining counties for credit.

### D. Certificate available

- 1. A paper certificate suitable for framing is available by mail as well as an emailed PDF version. Both are available upon request and upon payment of the applicable fee. (see rule E.5.)
- 2. Only an emailed PDF certificate. This is available upon payment of applicable fee, if any. (see rule E.5.)

## E. Application procedure

1. Applicants are encouraged to use the "USA CA Application Form" which can be found on the MARAC website (marac.org). Select the "Awards" tab and then select the "USA CA Application" tab.

- 2. If the USA CA Application form on the MARAC website is not used, then the applicant must submit the following information to the MARAC Awards Secretary:
  - a. Current call sign of the applicant, and any former call signs under which contacts used in the application were made.
  - b. Name of the applicant (which is the name to appear on the certificate)
  - c. Mailing address, email address and telephone number of the applicant.
  - d. Date, time and call sign of the last QSO used in the application.
  - e. A log of all contacts required for the award being requested. This log should contain for each QSO the call of station worked (or heard for SWL applicants) date, band, mode and county.
  - f. Identification of the award level requested, including any special endorsements requested.
  - g. Request for ether paper certificate or PDF certificate by email (or both).
- 3. The log may be a (legible) hand-written log, a computer printout or an email attachment. Digital logs may be in an ASCII or text file; Microsoft Works, Word, or Excel file; MARAC logger, or other computer logging program output file, but only if the Awards Secretary is not required to have an application program in order to read the file. The log should be alphabetical by state and alphabetical by county within each state, and should include the total number of counties in each state. Handwritten logs will not be returned to the applicant.
- 4. The application should be submitted to the MARAC Awards Secretary by one of the following methods:
  - a. If the USA CA Application form on the MARAC website is used then the "Submit Application" option at the bottom of the form should be used.
  - b. If the USA CA Application form is not used, then the application should be submitted by either

Postal mail sent to: Phil Yasson, AB7RW, 13208 NE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98685; or Email to: ab7rw@arrl.net

- 5. Payment of the applicable fee, if any, (in US Dollars only) for each award requested:
  - a. For a certificate in PDF form sent by email plus a large (approximately 14" x 21") paper certificate shipped to the applicant the fee is \$50 for MARAC

members and \$65 for non-MARAC members, plus an additional \$20 to ship outside the contiguous United States.

- b. For only a certificate in PDF form sent by email the fee is \$5 for non-MARAC members and no fee for MARAC members.
- c. The fee should be paid by either:
- A. Check or money order (payable to MARAC) mailed to: Bill Morgan, 12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401. Include with the payment a message containing the applicant's call sign and the award requested.
- B. Via Pay Pal to: treasurer@marac.org . Include in the message the applicant's call sign and the award requested
- 5. By submitting an application, the applicant certifies that all counties listed in the application were contacted (or heard for SWL) by the applicant in accordance with the rules of this award, and that the applicant will abide by the decision of the Awards Secretary in administering and interpreting these rules and the award program in general.

## F. Additional provisions

- 1. Except as modified in the foregoing, the general rules for all MARAC awards apply to this award.
- 2. This award, and all applicable rules, may be amended or rescinded by the Board of Directors of MARAC at any time and without prior notice.

Revised April 14, 2025.

Discussion: Several questions were asked. The proposal, as written, was voted upon.

Motion \_\_KODEQ\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_N1API\_\_\_ Aye \_8\_ Nay \_0\_\_ Abstain\_0\_\_

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:\_\_NA8W\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_KODEQ\_\_ Aye \_8 Nay\_0\_ Abstain\_0\_\_ Time 9:29pm Eastern

Open discussion with membership

K0DEQ reports that he has submitted the IRS 990N form for Corporate Fiscal year ending 3/31/25.

NF0N reports on the upcoming Lewis and Clark Exedition special event upcoming May 31-June 15. More info at LOTOTA.org.

## K3IMC reported on work progress

Up until now, applications for the USACA award have basically been via email. Now, Don has written and implemented an online application for this award, totally separate from MARAC's other awards.

Don says the new website is still in progress and will hopefully be completed by September. Our current web provider, EZCGI, has been nonexistent in support of problems we have had now for over a year. However they are the only provider that still "supports" Microsoft Access, which is what our current database is written in. Over a year ago Don started rewriting our database in mySQL. However he will still need to do a transfer of the database to the new website. When this is done, there will be a 1-2 day period for the transition to take place. He has three items still to complete before the transition can take place.

Don is working to clarify the awards application process to distinguish between USACA, Worked Counties Awards, and Transmitted Counties Awards.

He asked for patience as he works thru these changes.

## 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**: Mike Fatchett, W0MU 303-548-7222, VicePresident@marac.org

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

**Treasurer**: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ 573-465-5405 <u>Treasurer@marac.org</u>

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, <u>GreatLakes@marac.org</u>

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

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

**South Central Director**: Barry Mitchell, NOKV 303-841-6510, SouthCentral@marac.org

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, <a href="mailto:AwardsSecretary@marac.org">AwardsSecretary@marac.org</a>

**Historian**: Mike Davis, N8MD 507-454-5081, <u>Historian@marac.org</u>

**Newsletter Editor**: Kerry Long, W4SIG 901-331-1881, <u>RoadRunner@marac.org</u>

Sunshine Coordinator: Pat Reiner, KM6QF

213-999-0100, Sunshine@marac.org

IT Director: Donald Flynn, K3IMC 706-302-0725, it-dir@marac.org

Webmaster: Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC

Webmaster@marac.org

Custodian, Club Call: Mike Nickolaus, NF0N

712-223-3164, Custodian@marac.org

Election Coordinator: Ron Wilcox, KF7ZN

208-369-0566, ElectionCoordinator@marac.org

MARAC General Counsel: Vacant

Publicity & Advertising Coordinator: Paige Butler W0FLZ

PA@marac.org

MARAC Contest Coordinator: John Alman, WA4JA

931-486-3091, Contest-Mgr@marac.org

USACA Records Custodian: Barry Siegfried K2MF

973-558-0099, k2mf.bgs@gmail.com