



MARAC



THE MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB, INC.

No. 116

January 6, 1980

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MARAC MEMBERS

DUE TO TRAVEL AND OTHER PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS THE JANUARY MEETING WAS POSTPONED FROM JANUARY 5, 1980 UNTIL JANUARY 12, 1980. MINUTES FOR THAT MEETING WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

FROM THE SECRETARY

THE following members have dues payable January 1st. This will be your last N/L unless dues are received by January 31st. Please make check payable to MARAC and mail to W. Allen, 10310 W.170th Terr., Olathe, Kansas 66061. (\$4/yr).
WA0BMO, WA0BPE, WD0EPE, K0JJV, K1KPS, WA1NPM, K1UNM, WB2LSK, WB3IPQ, WA3TLS, WA3YFY, N4AIG, WD4DOM, WA4JYR, WB4UKA, WB4UPW, WB5KEA, W5QEM, W5UMD, W5VPV, K6RLR, W6TKV, W7ABX, W8ILC, W8LDZ, WA8PWR, WB9ZHS, JA2KLT, SM0AJU.

MOBILE TRIP PLANNED

I leave for south Tex. early in Jan. and will only break in the net and give out counties other than the 2,234 I have already given out unless I have special requests for Mo. Ala, Ark, Miss, La, Tex, and Ok. Be coming back in a month or six weeks and should make some of your members happy as I won't be causing too much QRM. I am returning all MRC's that have been altered. Rule "B", section #3 clearly states that all cards must not have been altered. Anyone with cards in their possession that I have signed and was altered will be signed by me if they want to return the old cards with an unaltered card to be signed. This way they can sign their application for USA-CA truthfully stating the cards in their possession are not altered. I want no more 1978 cards or older unless qualify as a keyer. I carry a keyer in the car and can go to CW operation by request but not in the phone section of the bands. I will not sign any more QSL's or MRC's for anyone who still insists on cluttering up the net with CW in the phone bands. I don't like to mess with the cheap thin paper miniographed facsimiles of an MRC and would just as soon not receive them.. Please have this printed in the MARAC N/L so everyone understand my rules and anyone who doesn't like it can please not bother cluttering up my log with their reports when I am on the air. Sincerely, Art, W0BK.



To our many good friends, Happy New Year and may 1980 bring you all the counties you need. Looking back on 1979, we'd like to first thank those who assisted us with address info, new calls, etc. Without this help our job would really be rough. To all you mobilers who sign cards the day rec'd our deepest appreciation.

1979 saw quite a few achieve USA-CA numbers and in many cases we have been advised that without the Bureau's efforts this goal would not have been possible. We are very happy that we were able to do the job for you. Our aim from the very beginning was to get at least a 95% return rate on mobile reply cards, including misread calls and one timers. We have been told by some of you that a return rate of 98% has been attained.

The Bureau was created in 1971 because of a need for such an operation. At about the time we were formulating operating rules, rates, etc., our good friend Bob, WA2AEA was working on the creation of the Mobile Clearing House and the CW CHN already had a Bureau in operation for CW Net contacts. Over the years we have had a high degree of cooperation with all Bureaus. Now we look to the future. As long as there is a need and as long as Miss Barbara is willing and able to do the hard work of addressing the envelopes we shall continue to operate. We must insist that you put your OSL info on the flip side of your MRC's. It makes it very easy if you have this, as Barbara can address your envelope without having to check our extensive 3 by 5 file. Be advised also that if you wish, you may send in a supply of SAE (Self Addressed Envelopes) and if you are really "flush" SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes). These save time and will give you better returns.

We'd like to propose consideration of annual dues to help your Bureau with it's many projects. 1. We do sponsor several county hunters who cannot really afford the postage and whatnot. 2. We when required will call anyone needing a county long distance, not collect, no one ringers and thankfully the stations we do call do usually send in an extra green stamp. Our plan would be to acquire a basic home computer and program it with all the necessary information on county givers, county hunters, "hot" counties, etc. and make this info available to all who subscribe. We have had some of our net controls send us copies of their Net Control logs and it has saved some of you missed counties. We would reestablish publication of the Roadrunner on a bi-weekly basis. This would be an adjunct to the MARAC Newlster and should in no way conflict with the Newsletter as we know it. We'd print trips planned, counties needed, a "Top Fifty" list and whatever else might be of interest to the members. To clarify our thoughts, we'd have three types of members instead of the two as we have at present. We'd add "Sustaining member" and issue certificate of membership. What we are thinking of is a first year or first time dues of \$5.00 per year and then either \$3 or \$4 for each year thereafter. It may seem like we are asking for a lot but if you consider the results of such a program, the cost is negligible. Regardless of how you feel on dues, we shall continue to operate as before. Thanks again all your help and we look forward to a good long association.

We ask that you communicate your feelings on this proposal to us ASAP so we can decide just what we will do in the future.

73 & GH.

COUNTIES NEEDED TO FINISH USA-CA

WØLRH-- ND Renville, Rolette, Slope SD Shannon
CALL COLLECT ANYTIME 219-751-2614.

K7SE-- NC Swain ND Sheridan, Wells, OH Holmes, Knox SC Barnwell
SD Haakon TENN Hancock VA Nottaway, Surry
(602-623-7423)

WA4UNS - ARKANSAS: Cross, Independence, Phillips GEORGIA: Dawson IDAHO: Jefferson
NEBRASKA: Keya Paha N. CAROL.: Alamance, Gates, Graham, Montgomery, Wilkes
N. DAK.: Bowman S. CAROL.: Cherokee, Fairfield, Lexington, Union
TEXAS: Crosby, Floyd, Henderson, King, Starr
TELEPHONE: COLLECT 703-971-8373 or 703-354-9480. (NOTE: Collect calls will
not be accepted at the last number but I will be told. Ask for DOUG HALL).

NOTE NOTE NOTE

BEGINNING WITH THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER, THE EDITOR WILL LIMIT THE
COUNTIES NEEDED LISTS TO 25 +/- TO LIST AN ENTIRE STATE. THE EXTRAS
ON YOUR LIST WILL NOT BE CARRIED FORWARD TO SUCCEEDING MONTHS AS I
HAVE BEEN DOING IN THE PAST. AS I HAVE STATED BEFORE, CHANCES ARE
THAT BY THE TIME I GET SOME OF THESE LONG LISTS LISTED IN THE N/L
YOU HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY WORKED THEM. I UNDERSTAND THAT HAS HAP-
PENED AND SOME OF YOU HAVE GOTTEN COLLECT CALLS. ALSO, I DO NOT
LIST NUMBERS AS 1R SO DON'T ASK FOR IT. 73, Bob, KØAYO, Editor

Roy C. Needham, ZL1KG

On Sep 25, Roy Needham, ZL1KG, joined the ranks of Silent Keys. Roy
was the first DX station to have worked all USA counties. It was on
February 9, 1971 that he worked the last of the 3,079 counties, Banner
county NEB. There were 51 other amateurs ahead of him who completed
this feat, but they were all amateurs located within the continental
US. ~~TT~~ was soon after that accomplishment Roy toured the US and
visited many of the county hunters he had worked. We will miss Roy.

Loren Tate, WØRP

The family deeply appreciated the beautiful floral piece that you
sent to Tate's funeral. The basket of snaps and daisies were out-
standing. Tate loved county hunting, in giving out and getting
counties awards. Of all the county hunters that he met he never met
one that he didn't admire and respect. Also in lieu of flowers some
of the MARAC members sent in contrubutions to the Cancer Society
which pleased our family. We hope and pray that this money will
be the means of a breakthrough. Thank you all. MARYTATE

COUNTIES NEEDED TO FINISH PARTICULAR STATES

K2UVG/6--ALA Hale, Perry, Elmore, Butler ARK Marion, Madison
(714- FLA Suwanee, Bradford, Clay, Putnam, Walton ILL Henderson,
789- Putnam, Lawrence, Hardin, Jackson IND Marshall KAN Osage,
3966 Montgomery, Lane ME Washington MICH Dickinson, Menominee
collect) MINN Pennington, Red Lake, Grant, Redwood, Pipestone

WD4HVZ--ALAS 4th CONN Middlesex LA St. Bernard, Livingston, Evan-
(502-448 ~~geline~~, Vernon, Avoyelles, Madison ME Lincoln, Knox,
448- Franklin, Piscataques MD Cecil, Kent, Dorchester MASS Plymouth,
3539) Barnstable NJ Cape May, Warren, Sussex NM Eddy, Lea,
Hildago, Valencia

K7CLO--ALA Bibb, Etowah, Morgan ARK Arkansas, Calhoun, Phillips,
Woodruff CONN Hartford FLA Clay IDA Bear Lake, Clark,
Jefferson, Washington ILL Cass, Jackson, Lawrence, Wood-
ford ME Lincol, Sagadahoc MICH Benzie, Dickinson, Leelanau
MO Douglas, Worth

K7SE-- ALA Chocteau, Greene, Hale, Sumter GEO Candler, Jefferson,
(602- Paulding ILL Franklin, Perry, KY Bell, Green, Knox, Letcher,
623 Oswley, Taylor, Wolfe MISS Alcorn, Jones, Tippah, Wayne
7423)

CT1BY-- ~~ME~~ ~~AN~~ ~~ro~~ ~~st~~ ~~ook~~ ~~MD~~ ~~a~~ ~~D~~ ~~or~~ ~~che~~ ~~ster~~ ~~z~~ ~~W~~ ~~or~~ ~~ce~~ ~~ster~~ ~~nm~~ ~~MA~~ ~~H~~ ~~id~~ ~~al~~ ~~go~~ ~~MI~~ ~~l~~ ~~i~~ ~~n~~ ~~c~~ ~~o~~ ~~l~~ ~~n~~ ~~,~~
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I2PJA-- ARIZ Cochise, Santa Cruz CALF Glenn, S. Benito, Tehama, Yuba
HAW Kalawao MASS Nantucket ME Franklin, Waldo MD Dorchester
NEV White Pine NM Colfax, Eddy, Grant, Lincoln NY Cortland,
Herkimer, Oswego, Warren, Wahington ORE Gilliam, Jefferson,
Lincoln, Tillamook PA Indiana, Lawrence, Monroe, Pike, Montour
WV Barbour, Marshall, Morgan, Tucker

W5QEM-- ALA Elmore, Choctaw, Clarke, Monroe ARK Newton, Scott, Perry,
(512- Little River GEO Rockdale, Putnam, Towns IDA Fremont IA Mahaska
883 Kan Pottowatomie, Pratt MICH Alcona, Ottawa, Kackson, McComb
8160) MO Gasconade, Washington MONT Richland, Ravali NEB Logan, Wayne

COUNTIES NEEDED TO FINISH USA-CA

WA5ZDZ--ALA Greene, Pickens, Walker, Washington ARK Woodruff
(318 COLO Jackson, Rio Blance GA Arkinson, Putnam, Qultman,
984 Spaulding IDA Clark KAN Norton KY Boyle, Lincoln Lyon, Monroe,
6854 Pike MICH Baraga, Benzie MINN Roseau NEB Covington, Humph-
collect)reys, Kemper, Washington ND Adams, LaMoure OK Adair, Atoka,
Bryaz, Choctaw, Coal, Washington PA Montour TEX Bastrop,
Calhoun, Franklin, Hill, Lynn, Red River, Refugio, Titus, Victoria
WASH Douglas, Whatcom.

K9BX-- ARK Drew ILL Mercer IND Tipton IA Page KY Henderson,
Knott, Webster MO Carroll NEB Merrick, Nance NEW Esmeralda
NC Catawba, Forsyth, Perquimans, Stokes, Wilkes ND Ransom
OK Choctaw SD Shannon, Walworth WASH Benton

NEW AWARDS OFFERED BY THE ARP

The Radio Association of Portugal will offer the following new awards during the first six months of 1980.

1. Best Portuguese mobile operator
2. Best net or assistant net control (Portuguese).
3. Best net or assistant net control (foreign - other than Portuguese).
4. Best "fan" of DCP (Portuguese).
5. Best "fan" of DCP (foreign - other than Portuguese).

The awards will be bronze medals appropriately engraved. No station may receive more than one award for the period. This award is offered for operation during the first six months of 1980. Winners will be selected by vote. Ballots will be in the June issue of the DCP Newsletter.

The DCP Newsletter is available to any liscensed amateur. It is published once each month. If you wish the Newsletter send SASE for each month.

U.S. - Canada -
Dorothy Johnson - WB9RCY
333 S. Lincoln Av.
Mundelein, Ill. 60060

All other stations -
Jose A. Allen - CT1DF
Rua do Freixo, 194 - Valbom
4420 - Gondomar
Portugal

The Portuguese QSO party will be on June 7th and 8th. More details later.

ANONYMOUS MEMBER??? SPEAKS.

deer ed-i r nu county hunter es this is my fst lettr to ur fb nuslttr-u mite wunder hw i got started county hunting-seems i wuz in qso wid sum friends nr the top of 11 mtr band when sum fellers wid bodacious sigs started sum troubles-seems pea had chased em off 20 es they wur trying to relay qk to anv fer the hole ball of wax-nw i dont knw much abt wax but i r athority on super qrp so i timed in on 14336-hole y cheyenne-hrd 20 guys clearing freq es 12 unidentified carriers-sounded gud so i traded my whiskey club nr fer exotic 2x2 call at friendly coin club es joined fellers to see if i cud get sum informations on wax-hole y unicoi-u wudnt believe respons when i yelled break break in mike-hole y shasta-gess query abt wax is sacred-thot maybe fellers wurnt hring me gud so i ckd linear-hole y marion-l guy said i wuz running 25336 watts es living in toledo-cudnt figure hw he knw i had pr of 4cx10000 jugs in final-finely sum guy in idaho sd i shld pay attenshun-hole y langlade-i dint evn knw wht i shd pay attenshun to-but i hrd guy later say i shd get explanations if i sent 58 green stamps to guy in kansas-so i just finished getting marac nr es studying materials-sri to b taking so long to get to point of lettr but cud u pse tell me what wax is used fer in county hunting-tnx es 73-ir4it, marac r2020

Dear Sir:

The following is a sketch as to my Amateur endeavor through the years - WØBHC WØHP, Loren M. Tate

Early in life it was my goal to get on the air and send out that hair curling, nerve tingling "CQ" to the most remote corner of the world.

After my education was completed, marriage and two children acquired, I started out afresh to achieve my lifelong goal.

In 1947 I recieved my first call, WØBHC (Bald Headed Charlie) and got on the air. I had attended night classes in code and theory and passed that dreaded test for conditional license. My rig? A war surplus that had been wired and rehashed over and over again!

In the year 1947 I joined the Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio club. In 1951 they elected me as president of the club. Our active club sponsored Missouri House Bill # 242 for the issuing of amateur license plates. To our delight and amazement the bill passed both Houses without a dissenting vote!

In 1952 I upgraded my license to Class A and also acquired a new rig. With a Johnson Viking 2 setup I really kept the airplanes sizzling with DX and also stateside contacts.

Many experiences have come my way through the years - many times I have been called home from work with the Frisco Railroad to help hunt for a lost child or to transmit messages due to the heavy ice storms that played havoc with the telephone lines. I have rerouted trains, relayed weather conditions when ice storms disrupted their normal way to travel. As I mentioned earlier there is no greater pleasure than to see a lost child returned safely to its parents. I have had the distinct pleasure of being co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinator of the Greene County Storm Net. More than once have loaded the travel trailer, wife and coffee pot and have been sent by the Red Cross to some tornado damaged town where I would set up a emergency network. I have recieved many awards which I have accepted humbly, yet prized highly and they all embellish the walls of my ham shack.

I am now a custodian and trustee of Amateur station WBØSVB set up on the campus of Baptist Bible College, where until recently college credits were given for our classes there.

I have been active both in Army and Air Force MARS program until illness limited my participation.

My wife and I for many years held our "own" Field Days. We selected different sites - Missouri, Wyoming, W. Virginia, N. Carolina, VE7 British Colombia and On Alaska Highway milepost 953! We both enjoyed each contact far more than the score accumulated. On some of the Field Days sites we shot our dipole antenna over the tree tops with bow and arrow and the insulators used were plastic hair curlers! On one Field Day we had a Classic 33 atop our 23 foot trailer. Needles to say many knocked at our door to see if we "were for real"

In April, 1976 we both came down with an incurable disease - County Hunting! On this particular day we left for an extended tour of Alaska towing our faithful trailer. I had just purchased a new Kenwood 520 that worked like a charm (and still does). With voice squeaky, palms sweaty and knees knocking out a feeble Morse code I gave out my first county - wow - 6 contacts, what a pileup! This was surely the thing that I had dreamed about as a youth and now it had become a reality! Right then and there we both knew we had been bitten hard by that County Hunting bug.

Conditions were so bad through the Klondike, Yukon all over Alaska that we could hardly wait until we could get back to the "lower 48" and get on the air again! On this trip we racked up 15, 257 miles and truly a County Hunters dream. With my wife urging me to travel that extra miles to give someone that special rare county, we seldom traveled interstate but country roads and byways - canyons, mountain tips and narrow tunnels the trailer humbly bringing up the rear!

On our return home my new two letter call WØRP (Roly Poly) was awaiting me and I have enjoyed using it.

I have just finished my last county # 3, 075! This was in Missouri and given me by WBØMIX, Jim Roberts. Now the award and all the seals hang on my wall with WBØMIX's picture parked astride that last county line hangs just below it!

I have been very ill since July 12 and many county hunters have driven far out of their way to give me my last few counties. WBØRCY, Dorothy, WDØEWO Harry and others have monitored and listened for the counties that I needed to finish. I truly appreciate and thank each one for all their help, I couldn't have made them all without their help.

It was also a great joy and pleasure to attend the Atlanta Convention and meet so many of the County Hunters that I had met on the net the past 3 years. They are truly a great group of people!

As you know when I returned home from the convention I went into the hospital and had a section of my colon removed with cancer and it spread to my liver, I am now taking chemotherapy for this. I am still very weak. I am hoping that I can get back on the air and give out many more counties to add to the over 700 that I have given prior to my illness.

Sincerely and with many thanks,
Loren M. Tate WØRP

P.S. This was written, edited and approved by Tate just prior to his death on December 2, 1979

Mrs. Mary E. Tate
2065 South Manley Drive
Springfield, Missouri 65807

HOW "PURE" SHOULD WE BE?

In the MARAC Newsletter (October 79), W5LXG (Steve) expressed his concern that mobile units professing to run county lines at rivers and streams were probably in error...that the county lines at those locations were not contiguous....and that the mobile unit should state which side of the river he was on to satisfy the "purists" among the ICHN contingent. In some respects, I agree with Steve, but I'm not sure that we avid and "purist" county hunters realize that rivers and streams are not the only locations where identification of the county lines may be in error....so much so that I wonder if we really want to be "99.44".

I was most interested in the letter from the Texas Department of Highways. First, I discovered that the great State of Texas had given up its claim to a portion of the navigable river called the "Red River". Someone must have decided that a river two miles wide and one-inch deep at flood-level wasn't very useful. Or, could it be that the State of Texas was deprived of its claim to "old Big Red" at its center channel as retaliation for joining the Confederacy and as a condition to its readmission to the Union in 1870. Someone goofed on the Sabine River, since it was also a part of the Louisiana Purchase, Louisiana should have had the advantage of gaining sole control by having the boundary set on the west side of the Sabine River. I suppose suffering the loss of "old Big Red" was considered sufficient penalty!

Secondly, the letter was baffling, confusing and a blow to my pride causing me to succumb to a few well-chosen words in that part of the letter which states, "The county line markers are usually accurate but due to the lack of good information concerning county lines the exact location is difficult to determine." After regaining my usually sweet disposition, I was still a bit discomfitted by the fact that a representative of an agency of the great State of Texas should have the unmitigated gall to admit that it lacked "good information concerning county lines". To be entirely fair, I had to admit that it could be a laborious task digging three or four feet into the middle of Interstate 10 to find a corner marker. Also, having used a Rand-Mc Nally Road Atlas for several years, I realized that the little gray line on my maps was 1/16-inch wide--on a scale of one-inch to 30 miles (the scale of my Texas R-M map) that represents almost a two-mile width. Now....I know that the county line is not two miles wide, but that presents a dilemma -- where the @*!+!! is the Brazos/Washington county line on Farm to Market Road #158 where the only signs are the directionals to the gin! No.... dahling, not that stuff in a bottle...those things that remove seeds from cotton!! Again...I was beginning to get a little puffy around the neck and the temperature arose around the top of my pate because one boundary of my little claim to Texas is the Brazos/Grimes county line...a wet county line. I could just

see some wheel from the Texas Department of Highways appearing at my door with a notice to evacuate because it had been decided that a highway was going to be built on the county line and the best estimate was that it would run through the center of my hamshack. No doubt the first bulldozer would appear and shove me under the rubble just as I keyed my mike to work my last county for USA-CA.

After regaining my composure for the 3075th time, or was it the 3079th, all of Ford's "better idea" light burst and search started for an old, but timely reference, a surveying textbook. A copy of the deed to my property also just happened to appear out of the myriad papers that I had discovered in my search. With book and deed in hand, I sought to interpret what those fellows were talking about. I must admit that I started with a preconceived notion that what those Texas Department of Highway sheels had said was, "we set those signs close enough to the county line that we can get road maintenance from certain crews and the state highway patrol can determine which JP gets to slap that felon with a traffic fine."

Having gotten all worked-up and prepared to prove that a county line was as easy to identify as your mother-in-law, I immediately was deflated. My dead says, in part, "thence, up the Navasota River with its meanders to the place of beginning." Now right there at the meanders, I began to see what those fellows were talking about! I knew what it meant to meander, in fact, I knew a man who bent his elbow now and then who could meander a total of five miles in a long city block. By the time I read all of the information on meanders, and the other considerations that it inspired, such as, "thread of stream", "alluvium", "reliction", "accretion", and "witness marker", I was about to send that text to the shredder. However, the term "witness marker" had a nice tone, so...again...I turned to the text. That lead to a long dissertation pertaining to marking corners and using witness markers in the fence lines to witness the location of a true marker. In short, it conveyed the information that those signs we see in the fence lines and along the roadways may be witnesses to the true markers and miss the purity factor by several hundred feet.

How pure do we really want to be? As a mobile operator, I don't want to do the spade work for the highway department... I'll just be satisfied to run single counties because the purity factor is no better on "dry" lines than on the "wet" ones. While you guys and dolls mull that over, I think that I will take my little mobile rig to the meanders of the Navasota River, my county line, take a big catfish out of the thread of the river, attach him to a stainless steel line and let him serve as the gound for my rig as he swims from embankment to embankment.

AFTERTHOUGHT...See what happens when you start waiting for those last twenty counties!! Y'all have a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!

SONNY
W5VDW

MEMBERS SPEAK !!

De W2GT: SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL.

Latest ALL COUNTIES AWARDS went to: WA6AQR #253, 11-8-79; WB4RVW #254 11-13-79; WA3QVJ #255, 11-13-79; WB9TKR #256, 11-19-79; W1UYL #257, 12-3-79; K2QK #259, 12-12-79; W7DXN #260, 12-14-79; K0DJC #261, 12-14-79; K7TM #262, 12-19-79. Sorry I missed #258 to WD6CQP 12-3-79.

I have just been reliably informed that by the time you read this, ALL COUNTIES PLAQUES through #258 should be on the way. The rest should follow in a few weeks. Any complaints regarding them should be sent to the new owner of CQ, Richard Ross, Publisher CQ, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, N.Y. 11801.

Apparently silence is not golden, so I will reply to the item by W5ULO in the December MARAC NEWSLETTER. Each time that W5ULO decides to apply for ALL COUNTIES, I get a flood of telephone calls and letters from all over the U.S. with valid reasons why it should NOT be issued, and under USA-CA rule D 2, I have that authority.

Here are some of the comments made to me regarding W5ULO: He has QRM'd the 75 and 20 meter Nets; used racial slurs; used profanity; exhibited horrible sportsmanship; claimed contacts he never made; while his application was on the way he was still chasing counties for which he said he had no QSLs; alienated net members; alienated mobiles so much that many won't sign QSLs, much less QSO him; created havoc in general; some think that at times he is a nice gentleman but more often seems NOT; and although most on the net try to be polite with him, at times it seems very difficult.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Since we have now heard from both sides of this controversy, and have printed both view points, no further correspondence on this matter will be acknowledged.

A SHORT "COUNTY HUNTERS' QUIZ" de K5MID

We all know that Alaska is the largest state, and with only four counties would have the largest average county area. As a matter of fact with an average county size of 146,600 square miles the average county in Alaska is larger than any other state in the Union, except California. We also know that Rhode Island is the smallest state and with 5 counties averaging 250 square miles each is on the bottom of the list. But what about the next five largest and smallest as far as average size of their counties goes? Got any ideas? Answer to the quiz is on another page and it may hold some surprises.

More grist for the mill: WA3UQR--

- 1) COUNTDOWN - How about encouraging use of the word "Countdown" to indicate one is down to * counties for the "Whole ball of wax?" Calling "Countdown nine" would indicate caller is seeking info on (or has just worked) a county that near the finish.

* A magic number (to be set by the powers-that-be) that would entitle caller a priority along with last-county, mobile, etc... My suggestion is that the magic number be 25 (I'm a long way from there...)

MEMBERS SPEAK!!

N4AIG/3--A Thanksgiving day conversation during a break in net activity has changed my county hunting procedures. Several stations who devote considerable time as both mobiles and net control, with excellent signals either way, informed me of their preference for conducting the net without relays. The two suggestions I received were to (1) improve my antenna system, and (2) change my operating procedures. These suggestions were given (and taken) as constructive criticism. Subsequent comments from other very active stations indicate they also feel the same way about relays. Because my antenna system (a dipole at 10 feet) can not be improved at this time, I have taken the latter suggestion and no longer use relays. I have less than 700 counties confirmed so the net still offers lots of opportunities to work the mobiles direct. This letter is directed primarily at the net control stations. I appreciate your offers for relay when given, but, for now, choose to do without. This may change when and if, I ever near completion but I'll do it this way for now. Perhaps if so many of the very active stations feel relaying the weaker stations in while net control or working the relays while mobile is a waste of their time they should so state and stop doing it. As with the recommendations I received, this letter is written constructively. See you on the net, 73, "O.B." N4AIG/3

WD4HVZ-- Need a Schedule with state of Maine on 10M with a 10X Member. Call 502-448-3539 Collect, Weekends.

WB5HIG-- Don't forget the Texas mini to be held March 7 and 8 at the Roadway Inn, Greenway Plaza, Houston, Texas. Reservations should be made by calling 713-526-1071 or 800-292-5200. Rates are \$30 for double or \$24 for single. Be sure to mention MARAC for credit. Hope to see you there. 73, Tom.

WA3UQR CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE--

- 2) MURPHY'S LAWS - Probably someone has long-ago codified certain (Murphy-type) laws of county hunting.....Here's mine:

KEITH'S FIRST LAW OF COUNTY HUNTING - "When propagation cooperates the mobilers don't -- they run only unneeded counties."

KEITH'S SECOND LAW - "Mobilers tend to congregate in the states you have completed."

THIRD LAW - "Immediately after finally getting a long-sought last-county it is repeatedly run by other mobiles."

-- COROLLARY - "The time between getting a last-county and its being run again is inversely proportional to the time you needed it as a last-county."

- 3) COUNTY LINES - I agree with W5LXG's proposal (Oct 79 NL) that water-separated counties be barred from running as county line.

FROM K5MID

STATE	Avg COUNTY SIZE	STATE	Avg COUNTY SIZE
Alaska	146,600 Sq Mi	Rhode Island	250 Sq Mi.
Nevada	6,511 "	Kentucky	338 "
Wyoming	4,257 "	Georgia	372 "
New Mexico	3,832 "	New Jersey	392 "
Utah	2,930 "	Indiana	395 "
California	2,729 "	Tennessee	421 "

Open Letter to all Members:

To those of you who have read George's (AC8F) letter, and to those who have not (everyone should have by now), I would urge you to consider his proposals and offer him your support and encouragement. Now more than ever before it is extremely important that the members organize the ICHN. Not just for the obvious reasons, better control and organization of the net, but for "Political" reasons. I don't mean "Political" like clique, but "Political" like dealing with problems such as the deliberate QRM'ing of the net and being able to discuss the problem with the FCC as a reputable organization.

I think after the fiasco Sunday morning, Dec. 23, with W8PEA, everyone will agree that its time we got off our "duffs" and corrected this problem. One way to do this is to be totally organized and consistent in our operation. I feel that the actions of a few county hunters (Carrier throwing, VFO swishing, Name Calling, and comments made without proper I-D) would not lend much credence to any complaint we would submit to the FCC at this time. We must develop guide-lines and procedures to handle this problem and others so we won't be at fault when situations such as this occur. Just as a reminder, if you are guilty of any of the above actions, ask yourself "Is 'PEA' worth losing my license over?", because that's what will happen if you are caught.

To George; if you need any help or assistance on this project don't hesitate to call on me if there's anything I can do.

To All County Hunters; Its been a most enjoyable year for me on the net. Got a bunch - got a bunch to go. Made a lot of new friends, hopefully not too many enemys. But, we have some problems we can no longer ignore. Remember, in anything, be it sports, work or hobby YOU ONLY GET OUT OF ANYTHING WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT.

73's And Best Wishes to all in
The New Year.

Paul-WD4LTD

-13-
1980 FLORIDA QSO PARTY

1500 UTC Saturday 17 May to 2359 UTC Sunday 18 May

This is the fifteenth annual Florida QSO Party, sponsored by FLORIDA SKIP. All amateurs worldwide are eligible and invited to participate.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: Each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions of this announcement, the regulations of the applicable licensing authority, and the decisions of the Florida Skip Contest Committee, which are final.

VALID CONTACTS: All amateur bands may be used. ALL stations will SEPARATE PHONE and CW logs. A station may be worked once on each band on each mode. Neither crossband nor crossmode contacts (phone to cw or vice versa) will count for contest credit. Florida stations may work other Florida stations, but for contest points only. Out-of-state stations may not work each other for contest credit. Contacts made on repeaters do not count for credit.

ENTRY CLASSES: Florida stations will be divided into two classes. Class "A" stations are those operating portable or mobile on emergency power and running 200 watts or less (cw or PEP phone) inside Florida but outside of their home counties. Class "B" stations are all other stations operating in Florida.

EXCHANGE: Florida stations send signal report and county of operation. Out-of-state stations send signal report and U.S. State, Canadian province, or country; out-of-state mobile stations not operating within the jurisdiction of any country send signal report and the ITU region (1, 2, or 3, etc.) in which operating.

SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES: cw - 3555, 7055, 14055, 21055, 28055
phone - 3945, 7279, 14319, 21379, 28579, 50.2, 146.52

SCORING: Florida stations count one point per QSO with out-of-state or other Florida stations. Multiplier is the sum of states (49 maximum), provinces (12 maximum), DX countries (25 maximum), and ITU Regions (5 maximum) actually worked; maximum multiplier is 91. Out-of-state stations count two points per QSO with each Florida station. Multiplier is the number of different Florida counties worked (67 maximum). Score is the product of QSO points and multiplier. Class "A" stations ONLY multiply score by 1.5 (one and one-half) to obtain total.

AWARDS: Certificates, phone and cw, to the top single-operator score in each state, province, and DX country, and each Florida county. There are also five plaques to be awarded as follows: high single-operator in Florida and out-of-state, cw and phone, and to the Florida club with the highest aggregate score.

DISQUALIFICATIONS: At the discretion of the contest committee, stations and/or operators may be disqualified for improper reporting, excessive dupes, errors in multiplier lists, unreadable logs, obvious cheating, etc. Anyone disqualified in this year's Florida QSO Party will be barred from the contest next year.

REPORTING: PHONE and CW entries are to be SEPARATED. Along with legible logs in chronological order, a summary sheet is required with each entry. The summary sheet must contain score, number of QSO's, multiplier, stations call sign, entry class and number of Florida counties, power source for Class "A" entries; state; province; country or region of operation; call signs of all operators/loggers if multi-op; name of club if part of a club aggregate score; name and address typed or printed in block letters; and a signed declaration that all rules and regulations have been observed. Include a 15¢ stamp for contest results from a future issue of FLORIDA SKIP.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: All entries must be received on or before 15 June 1980 (late DX entries will be accepted within reason). Mail all entries to: Florida Skip Contest Committee, P.O. Box 660501, Miami Springs, Florida 33166.

MEMBERS SPEAK!!

WA3QVJ-- I really don't know who to thank first-or last for that matter; so I estend my sincere tnaks to everyone who helped me achieve USA-CA #255 (including my XYL, Sharon, and Harmonic, Kathy, who had their television programs messed up by the rig). This culminated a 2 year 7 1/2 month effort from my first county (w4lxb/m Franklin, Va) 3/15/77 to my last (wa7phd/m Jefferson, Wa) 11,3,79. This effort also filled up 120 log book pages in four logbooks. K3YAY, Dave, in Worcester county, Md. introduced me to county hunting. I met Dave via our local two meter FM repeater (WR3ABS, 22.82) and within a short time went by his shack to visit. In the process of my visit, he showed me his "coloring book" and his MRC's. After seeing them, he took me over to the wall of his shack upon which hung numerous awards including a USA-CA Award with a sticker or two upon it. That was all it took----I was hooked! I've come in contact with many fine peo!;e through county hunting thanks to our QSO's while waiting for a mobile to get womewhere, discussing those impossible to get counties or simply keeping a mobile company as he rode along; this would include the mobiles, the net controls, and all the rest. All I can think of to add is thanks, thanks, thanks!

MARAC NEWSLETTER
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