

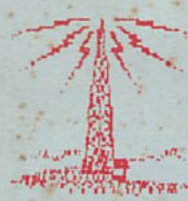
# COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

Editor R Dyson KOAYO 8943 S Overhill Desoto Ks

A publication of the Mobile Amateur Radio

Awards Club, Inc.

SSB Net 14.336 CW Net 14.066.5



No. 242

June 1, 1990

## Net Operating Tips

By Mitch, W4RKV

Many Newcomers (and some not so new) to our net either have not read the CH guidelines in the Handbook or choose to ignore them. One of the most frequently abused is section 5.5.10 dealing with trivial queries. It describes a station's request for a particular county from a mobile as a trivial query, unless it is the last county in that state or one of the last 50 in the country. While this may seem a bit restrictive, we have to draw the line somewhere. Using myself as an example, if I hear a mobile in north Texas and interrupt to tell him I only need 9 more in Texas and 3 near him to finish up that part of the state, THAT IS A TRIVIAL QUERY. Why? Because what's fair for one is fair for all, and if EVERYONE listening on the net who needs counties in Texas interrupted with the same info, we would average about 2 or 3 mobiles an hour. We should keep in mind that (usually) there are other mobiles waiting to run, and people waiting to work them. If I make arrangements OFF FREQUENCY or by letter/telephone for a specific county, I should always offer to move the mobile off frequency so that others who need that county may benefit from the interruption.

## Dateline CW

By Ed, KN4Y

"Nothing is so insignificant it can't be blown out of proportion."

Talk about being confused, which I have mastered without formal training. What is confusing me is the statement in the January Newsletter where a CHRC was returned because the signal report was wrong. Somewhere I have missed some-

thing. I looked at my yellowed dogeared CQ USACA logbook and there is not a field for a RS(T) entry. When in doubt read the instructions, and there it was. MARAC Rule w.4 requires only written confirmation of a contact, which by definition, must be a signal report of 22(T) or better.

Being a Florida cracker by marriage I inherited oxymoron red neck logic and, it would seem to me a 56(T) signal report that was incorrectly written on the CHRC as 59(T) is still a valid contact. I reason thusly, both the 56(T) and the 59(T) signal reports are greater than 22(9) the minimum acceptable report, therefore, by definition, the contact is valid.

Then follows the obvious question "Why would an invalid contact be logged?" This is very confusing to me, will someone out there please explain what parameter I have overlooked.

The thrill of a victory is more fun than the agony of defeat, but can be dangerous. On February 25, Harry, NFOX, gave me Newton County, my last Texas county. I raised my arms in victory, leaned back and gave out a rebel yell. Unfortunately, my chair leaned back to a horizontal position putting me in an unstable position.

My momentum was absorbed by a lawn chair on which was sleeping my cat Tiger. The cat was catapulted through the air. Seeing a 19 pound cat flying, fangs out and shrieking like a wounded tornado is enough to over-saturate the best Depend. Tiger landed on the operating table, ran in place for a second and bolted out the door. In one split second Tiger had transmitted CQ CHN, shredded my log, dumped coffee in my keyer and picked up frequent flyer mileage. Then on March 15, Ed, WA6VJP, gave me Eureka County, my last in NV.



## (Dateline CW con't)

Tiger was sleeping on his chair during the contact and as I was keying, TX Ed for my last....Tiger bolted out the door. Who says cats cannot remember.

The county hunters 10 meter CW contest was fun even if the conditions were not the best. I covered 735 miles operating from 14 FL, 11 GA and 2 AL counties. Hope we do it again next year and the conditions allow me to beat the 142 contacts made this year.

Next month is the CH convention, I am looking forward to seeing all of you again and to meet many new CH'ers. So gas up the buggy, empty the piggy bank and lets all meet at the KING OF PRUSSIA.

March 29 while on a trip from Tampa to Gainesville I decided to run the counties along route 301. The weather was clear and warm with light traffic on the highway and low QRM on the CHN. As I entered Sumter county I noticed a small cemetery down youder perched on a knoll about two hundred yard off the highway. That would be a good location from which to work the CW Net, so I turned onto the side road leading up to the cemetery.

I stopped at the entrance archway, on which the name Greenwood was inscribed, to consider passage of my antenna. It looked high enough, but I moved forward cautiously until well inside the cemetery. I checked the CW net and a mobile was running so I decided to exercise my legs by taking a short stroll. The dates on the head stones indicated this was a very old cemetery dating back to the 1800's. The ground were well kept and I could see why people were dying

to get in. I noticed several headstones in a section fenced separate from the main cemetery. My curiosity overcame better judgement and I walked over to this segregated area. The first thing I noticed was the fence around the graves. It was circular and without a gate, an unbroken circle. The fence was made of cast iron similar in design to the burglar bars used on store fronts. For some reason I noticed the fence had six vertical bars, a cross, six more vertical bars, another cross, a design that continued around the entire circle.

The main cemetery had a plush grass cover throughout, except this plot, which was bare of any growth. I did notice there were 13 graves within the circle and on each grave was an artificial black Rose stuck into the ground. It appeared each rose was located directly above the heart of the interred. I swore never to watch any more twilight Zone reruns on TV.

I noticed, what appeared to be a six inch square mirror, embedded in each headstone. On the first headstone was etched, Samuel Jacobs 1806-1856, Thy Flames Delivered. The next read, Emma Rottweiler 1808-1838, Burn thee Clean. The headstone inscriptions did not make any sense to me, but I had this feeling these were the graves of people different from the majority of that period. What an idea for a story for the Roadrunner, a county run where a poltergeist or two may be listening. I went back to the van and parked it as close to the fence as possible. The air in the van suddenly seemed heavy so I left the engine and air conditioner running.

I checked the CW net just

in time to hear ANI/M QRV please QNI. I responded as usual, but was not acknowledged by the NCS, but the moment I unkeyed a low hum was received which increased to a S-5 before tailing off. During my second attempt to contact the NCS I looked at the meter and saw the output power slowly drop to zero, I unkeyed. There was that hum starting again, this time peaking at S-10 during which I noticed a strange phenomenon, the meter on the rig indicated increasing power output, yet only the receive indicator light was on. My curiosity overwhelmed my basic desire to get the hell out of there. I keyed down and out of the corner of my eye I noticed the black artificial roses were swaying back and forth, I unkeyed, they were motionless as death. There is the problem, the wire stems of the black roses must be the exact length to be resonant to the CHN frequency and produce a RF echo, which produced the hum between the antenna and the roses, a mobile RF choke. Suddenly, it got dark as if a cloud had covered the sun, yet there were no clouds in the sky. I hit the keyer and pounded out, de KN4Y/M QRV in, then stopped, there was no sidetone, no indicated power output. The hum, now more like a scream from tormented souls exceeded S-40, I tore off the headphones now soaked in sweat, the black roses were swaying in unison, the van engine labored as if grasping for air, the MFJ clock indicated 0000. Sweat burned my eyes, I screamed, "Nothing is going to stop me from running Sumter county. The only response was complete silence, only the frenzy beating of my heart. Suddenly, all the van doors unlocked.  
(To be continued...)



## Going To The Convention Contest

The contest will start at 0001z, July 11 and will end, as announced, when you arrive at King of Prussia (Valley Forge). All contacts will count for 1 point except for DX and Mobile to Mobile which will count for 3 points. For purposes of this contest VE's will not count as DX. Total points will be arrived at by multiplying the total number of points by the number of counties run. (County lines will count as 2 counties in arriving at total score.) Paul, WA3TUC

## Suggestion

When sending in a list for a "Planned mobile trip", it would help alot if you would indicate whether the operation is going to run only SSB, only CW or both.

## News Release From "CQ"

We congratulate the following County Hunters on their earning a place on the USA-CA SPECIAL HONOR ROLL, sponsored by "CQ" Magazine.

Dr Hugh Unger, WB4UNH  
#658, All 20M SSB, 4-23-90

Angelo Ferrari, I2PHN  
#659, All 20M SSB Mobiles,  
4-24-90

Wayne Bollschweiler,  
WB7QID, #660, All SSB,  
4-30-90

Tom Campbell, W2EZ, #558  
10-22-88, Endorsed ALL CW  
4-11-90

## Results Of 4th Quarter Voting

Following are the results of the fourth quarter vote for Best N/C, Best Mobile, SSB and CW. All totals for each nominee will be added to the previous 3 quarters to determine the Annual Winners to be announced at Valley Forge.

### Best N/C -- SSB

1st-----N7BKW  
2nd-----W0UM  
3rd-----W0GOQ

### -- CW

1st-----WA6VJP  
2nd-----W6NNV (tie)  
-----N0DPF

### Best Mobile -- SSB

1st-----N9DEH  
2nd-----KK7X  
3rd-----WA0SBR

### -- CW

1st-----N0CYB  
2nd-----W4HSA  
3rd-----KG5J

These results were based on the receipt of 84 ballots or approximately a 10% return.

## Address For Convention Motel

HOLIDAY INN  
260 GODDARD BLVD  
KING OF PRUSSIA  
PA 19406



## Address Changes and Corrections

R231 WAS WA1NXW NOW N1GMU  
R575 WAS UA0FGM NOW UV3GM Valery "Walt" Gromov P O Box 627 Moscow USSR 117330  
R590 WA4CHI 1909 12th Av Longmont CO 80501  
R704 W1SXX 7148 N. Village Road Parker CO 80134  
R1089 WB5YDH P O Box 2352 Redding CA 96009  
R1330 K4BZV Rt 1 Box 80 Bumpus Mills TN 37028  
R1367 N5CII 24814 Butterwick Spring TX 77389  
R1390 WB6IYS 470 Martinsen Palo Alto CA 94306  
R1530 KB9QP 314 Welcome Way Blvd Indianapolis IN 46214-2912  
R1739 K7EQ 1144 Hornblend St San Diego CA 92109-4136  
R1934 WAS KA7VIN NOW KF7ZN  
R1971 KD8GL NEW ZIP CODE 26003-9428  
R2028 WAS KA1MPF NOW KG7BO  
R2080 W4BWR 7A Ventian Way Indian Harbour Beach FL 32937  
R2102 K4CCW Rt 1 Box 80 Bumpus Mills TN 37028  
R2112 KA0NVT 6221 5th St NE Fridley MN 55432  
R2136 K0VPP 8812 47th Av Kenosha WI 53142  
R2167 KB5WY 11100 N. Hampton Dr Charlotte NC 28227



# Minutes Of The MARAC Meeting

The May meeting was held May 12, 1990 at the Holiday Inn East, St. Paul, MN. President Don, WA0LKL, called the breakfast meeting to order at 8:56A. Also in attendance were W0NNH, WA0RJJ, WA0SGJ, W0KMH, W9LHG, and W0FCO.

The Secretary reviewed the minutes of the April meeting, as reported in the My Roadrunner. With no corrections or additions, WA0SGJ made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by W0NNH, passed. John, W9LHG presented the Treasurer's report for the months of March and April. It was pointed out that there was included in the report a \$20 contribution to the Capital Equipment Fund by K8IXU in the name of N9DEH. WA0RJJ made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by W0NNH, passed.

There was some discussion about the future need for a dues increase because of the expected postal rate increase next spring. It was pointed out that currently the dues income is closely balanced by the expense to print and distribute the Newsletter.

The President read a letter from the Awards Custodian, W0OWY, indicating that for the immediate future there will be no change in confirmation requirements for the Five Band Counties Award. A state of support and thanks was expressed to Bill for all his efforts in polling and attempting to satisfy the membership wishes.

Don, WA0LKL, indicated that there had been no nominations received for the Great Lakes Director position for the upcoming term. He added that nominations received via the June ballot would be voted on at the National Convention.

With no additional business, W0KMH made a motion to adjourn, seconded by N0FCO, passed. The next regular meeting will be held on June 9, 1990, at 9:00AM, also at the Holiday Inn East, St. Paul, MN. The July regular meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Convention.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vern Olson, WA0RJJ  
Secretary.

## From The Secretary

If your mailing label indicates 9006 or 9007, it is time to renew. Dues with 1st class mailing of the Newsletter are \$13/yr. Dues with 3rd class mailing of the Newsletter are \$10/yr. note that 3rd class mailing is available within the U. S. only. Dues with the Newsletter mailed Air Mail to all continents other than North America is \$25/yr. Multiple-year renewals and SASE's with renewals are also very much appreciated. Please make your check or money order payable to MARAC and mail to the Secretary, Vern Olson, WA0RJJ, 4024 NW 3rd St, Rochester, MN 55901.

## MARAC Info Packet

Get the word out to potential new members and interested County Hunters that a County Hunting information Packet is available. The Information

Packet includes information about MARAC QSL'ing, Net Operation, County Hunting supplies, etc. Send the request with a business size envelope with 25 cents postage to:

MARAC  
Box 64  
Newport, MN 55055

European requests to:  
Eddie Scholes, G4KHG  
19 Castle Hill  
Newton-Le-Willows  
Merseyside, England  
WA12 ODU

## Financial Report

Checking Acc't Mar 1, 1990

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Income   | \$1,928.45 |
| Expenses | \$6,324.00 |

Checking Acc't Mar 31, 1990

\$ 571.05

Savings Acc't Mar 1, 1990

\$5,331.81

Transfer from Checking  
\$5,000.00

Savings Acc't Mar 31, 1990  
\$10,331.81

Checking Acc't Apr 1, 1990  
\$ 571.05

Income \$2,118.50  
Expenses \$1,209.28

Checking Acc't Apr 30, 1990  
\$1,480.27

Savings Acc't Apr 30, 1990

(No activity for April)

\$10,331.81



## Reduce QRM With a Tune Up Switch

By KDOG Stan

Tune-up QRM is so common on the HF bands that we have come to accept it as part of operating, but it sure can be irritating at times. Part of the pride in operating a station is to be courteous to other hams (this means NOT interfering with their QSO's). Moving to a quiet area of the band to tune-up only lessens the probability of interfering with a QSO, since the receiving station can still be clobbered. If every ham that uses a transmatch in the antenna system were to use the tune-up indicator switch described by Wm Vissers, K4KI, in QST (Dec 1979, pg42) there would be a lot less QRM. If I were to recommend two things to a ham newcomer, it would be to have a dummy load (Heathkit's Cantenna is \$24.95 and worth it) and Visser's antenna switch.

When the switch in this unit is placed in the TUNE position, the transmitter is coupled to a 50 ohm dummy load, sending about 1% of that power to the antenna by way of a Wheatstone Bridge designed for 50 ohms. The transmatch in the antenna system is adjusted to null the bridge DC microammeter (0-50uA), indicating the antenna system is presenting a 50 ohm load to the transmitter. Then the switch is moved to the ANTENNA position, connecting the transmitter directly to the antenna system, and it is ready for operation. I have used this arrangement with my TS-520 Transceiver for about a year, with coax feedline to a tri-bander and open wi-

wire feedline to a center fed wire for 40 and 80 meters.

A nice feature of the indicator-switch is that once a transmitter with tube finals is tuned (plate resonance) into the dummy load, no transmitter readjustments are needed after the transmatch-antenna adjustments are made. This system may have other advantages for broadband rigs with transistor finals. All transmatch adjustments are made with the transmitter looking at 50 ohms (dummy load) so the transmitter will not shut down even if a very high SWR occurs during transmatch tuning. On-the-air tests indicate my normal 10 watt, S9 tune-up signal is reduced to just above noise level when I use the indicator-switch unit. With the indicator-switch in the TUNE position, only about 100 milliwatts of power goes to the antenna, and even this can be reduced in many cases by using fewer toroid coil windings.

This is a nice project with relatively few components. Build and use this indicator switch and help reduce tune-up QRM.

## Maryland QSO Party Aug 18-19

The Antietam Radio Assoc. has announced that the Maryland QSO Party will be held from 1600z Aug 18 thru 2359z Aug 19.

Suggested freq for SSB are: 1.86, 3.92, 7.28, 14.28, 21.37, 28.37, 50.15 and 146.55.

Suggested freq for CW are: 3.643, 7.13, 14.04, 21.115, 50.05 and 144.15.

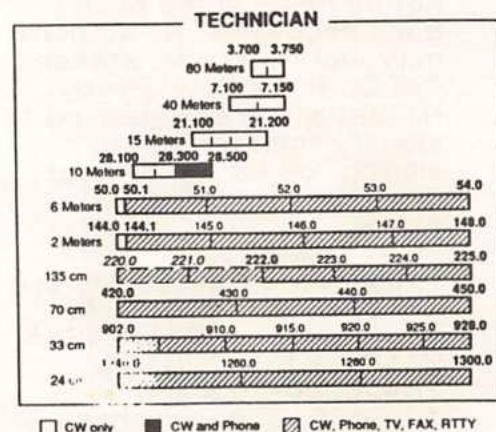
Maryland stations give RST and county (for this test only - DC and Balt. City will count as county multipliers). Stations outside of Maryland give RST and either state, province or DX country.

Certificates will be awarded in several categories including Maryland mobile, novice, tech, DX, top three MD scores and top score in each state.

Scoring - 5 QSO points for contact with club station, 3 points for mobile QSO, 2 points for MD CW station QSO. CW & mobile would be worth  $3 + 2 = 5$  QSO points. SSB QSO's with non-mobiles and non-club stations are worth 1 QSO point each. Final score = Total QSO points X total different county multipliers worked.

Logs go to Antietam Radio Association, P O Box 52, Hagerstown, Md. 21741. All entries must be postmarked by Sept. 10, 1990. If you would like a copy of contest results, include a S.A.S.E. with your log entry.

Any questions should be addressed to the contest chairman, WA3EOP, Page Pyne in care of Antietam Radio Association.





# USACA Special Honor Roll

We congratulate the following County Hunter on his earning a place on the USA-CA SPECIAL HONOR ROLL, sponsored by "CQ Magazine".

Larry Hickman  
KA9ZRW

USA-CA All Counties #657  
Mixed, 4-5-1990

Dorothy Johnson WB9RCY  
USA-CA Custodian

## New Jersey 31st Annual QSO Party

The Englewood A.R.A., Inc invites all amateurs to take part in the Annual QSO party to be held from 2000z Aug 18 thru 0700z Aug 19 and from 1300z Aug 19 thru 0200z Aug 20. Phone and CW are considered the same contest. A station may be contacted once on each band - phone and cw are considered separate bands - CW contacts may not be made in the phone band segments. NJ stations may work other NJ stations. Call CQ NJ or New Jersey. NJ stations are requested to identify themselves by signing "de NJ" on cw and "New Jersey calling" on phone.

Suggested frequencies are 1810, 3535, 3950, 7035, 7135, 7235, 14035, 14285, 21100, 21355, 28100, 28400, 50-50.5 and 144-146. Suggest phone activity on the even hours; 15/10 meters on the odd hours (1500 to 2100); 160

meters at 0500z.

Exchange QSO number, RST, and QTH (ARRL section or country). NJ stations will send county for their QTH.

Scoring; Non-NJ stations multiply number of complete contacts with NJ stations times the number of NJ counties worked (Max 21). NJ stations W-K-VE-VO QSO's count as 1 point; DX stations count as 3 points. Multiply total number of points times the number of ARRL sections (including NNJ and SNJ). KP4, KH6, KL7, etc, count as 3 point DX contacts as well as section multipliers.

Certificates awarded to the first place station in each NJ county, ARRL section, and country. In addition, a second place certificate will be awarded when four or more logs are received. Novice, Technician, and mobile operator certificates will also be given. A total of four plaques have been donated by the ARRL Section Managers for NNJ and SNJ to the highest scoring single operator station residing in each of their sections (separate for Novice/Technician and all other classes).

Logs must also show the UTC (z) date and time, band, and first contact for each claimed multiplier must be indicated and numbered and a check list of contacts and multipliers should be included. Multi-operator stations should be noted and calls of participating operators listed. Logs and comments should be sent to: Englewood Amateur Radio Association, Inc., P O Box 528, Englewood, NJ 07631-0528. A #10 size SASE should be included for results. Stations planning active participation in NJ are requested to advise EARA by Aug 1 so plans for full coverage can be made.



Many thanks to all who helped me during my recent trip to Hawaii. Hopefully, everyone finished up the state. The trip was fun but not without its problems. A few missing bags and a broken keyer started things off. The bags finally arrived and I was able to borrow a keyer from KH6DRT.

On Molokai the road leading to the Kalawao/Maui line was flooded so Tim Stack offered the use of his four-wheel drive Scout, an offer that I readily accepted. Conditions were not the best on 20 when I arrived but 15 and 10 were considerably better. When 20 improved to the point I thought I could run, the Scout's battery died. It took an hour and 30 minutes to get Tim back up to the line, discover that we could not remove the rental car's battery, drive back to his mother's house and return to the line with her four-wheel drive Trooper, jumper the Scout, discover that the engine noise on the Scout was about 40 over 9, and finally move everything to the Trooper and position it on the county line. Anyway, as you can see, everyone who worked me on the line owes a great deal to Tim. If you have not already done so, please send him your QSL with a note of thanks. His address is: Tim Stack P O Box 283 Kualapuu, HI 96757,

One other thing I learned: if you travel on an airplane with equipment, be sure to remove any batteries. The problem with my keyer was caused by the 9-volt battery coming loose and banging around inside the cabinet. My apologies to the CW folks as I didn't get anywhere near to what I wanted in contacts.





## Election of Three Directors

Included in this newsletter is a ballot for election of members to fill upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors.

The present terms for Directors from the Headquarters, North Central and Great Lakes districts will expire at the close of the Annual Convention in July. Nominations have been received for the Headquarters and North Central Districts but not from the Great Lakes. As a result, the ballot only lists the two nominees. For the Great Lakes position, voters should "write-in" their candidate for the position; at the Convention the nominees will be announced and the voting will proceed as called for under the By-laws.

REMEMBER, only members in the North Central and Great Lakes can vote for those districts candidates. All members may vote for the Headquarters nominee.

A review of the By-laws may show that the Great Lakes "nominees" and election may have to be delayed until after the July convention.

## Members Speak!

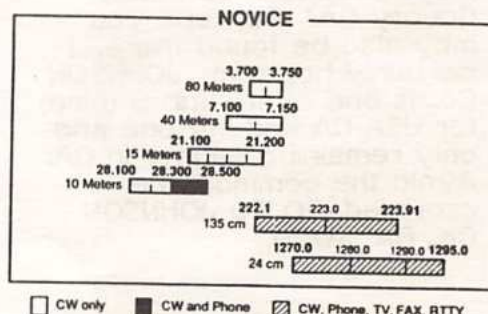
(Editor's Note: The following is an edited version of the letter sent from Jack to VE3FNM. It is printed at Jack's request and edited with his expressed permission).

WA9QNI, Jack - Mr. Will Phillips, VE3FNM. I would like to comment on your recent letter to the "Countyline Roadrunner" about county hunting being a frustrating experience for you. You do of course have the right to your opinions but in this case I feel your letter will cause some net control and mobile stations to quit trying and we don't have enough of them as it is. For every one person who would be so critical of the efforts of our great net control and mobile operators I believe there are at least "99" who would praise and encourage them. The other "99" take into consideration that this is not a large business nor a military operation but a volunteer group which offers no compensation nor benefits for time and effort put in. We offer no training, not even firm net procedures to help or defend them. So we don't expect perfection and probably wouldn't recognize it if we heard or saw it and allow that no one can please all county hunters all of the time. The "99" do appreciate all the hours you mobiles spend after "giving" us a county (or a week of counties) listening to and transferring your tape or rough notes to some form of log and the hours you put in over the next 2 or 3 years going back over those logs to try and verify contacts for stations that don't always write or print clearly, often have the

wrong date, wrong county, wrong signal report, wrong call for the mobile, forget to put postage on the return envelope are not even on your log for that county (did he double with another station?) and many other careless mistakes which take 10 times as much of your time to process than the clean contacts do but he will still blame you if you fail to confirm the contact.

The "99" realize that no matter how often you really outstanding net control, relay, assistant and mobile stations announce the state, county and call (even with phonetics) at the start, during and at the end of the run, that many of we fixed stations were not paying attention. We certainly don't blame you for our own lack of attention nor for our rigs and/or antenna which most of us admit are inferior or poorly adjusted. We just wish there were 24 or 48 more half as good as you putting in just one-tenth as much time helping us get new counties.

And finally, we (the "99") regret that there will always be one who found our favorite radio activity so frustrating. We must remember that we did our best for them, wish them well, and understand. Remember then the "99" who stay around for the "Second Time Around", "Bingo", and the many other recognized variations of County Hunting. 73, Jack





# Members Speak!

WA4CHI, Bob - I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the County Hunters who sent their condolences on my wife's (Sandy, WA4QER) death last June. My youngest son has fully recovered from the accident. As many of you know, I am back on the air after a year and a half hiatus, and will be mobile again during my vacation in August. I can't tell you how much I want to come to Paul's convention this summer but I'll be unable to due to family. Paul, I'll be thinking about you, and commiserating with you on putting on a National Convention, I know what you are going thru!

I have bought 2 cartridges for the Commodore 64/128 computer and need instructions to go with them. Got them at a local ham's estate sale and no paperwork came with them. One is "Turbo Load and Save" by Spinaker Software. The other is "SWL" by Microlog. Any help?? Bob Kemp 1909 12th Ave Longmont CO 80501.

KOGEN, Lloyd - Attention Mobilers!! Do you know what Wrightsville, Donovan, Meeks, Kite, US Hwy 221, 319, SR 15, 31, 57, and 78 have in common? They all maybe found in JOHNSON County GA! Perhaps you may also be found there, I certainly hope so. JOHNSON Co., is one of my last 9 (nine) for USA-CA and my one and only remaining county in GA. Avoid the common, the crowded, GO TO JOHNSON Co., GA SOON.

WOUBT, Bud - This is to inform everyone that G4KHB (Mike Lowe) has returned to his home in Cheltenham England. He has spent the last 3 years in Hong Kong (VS6UN). He is now back on the air and I am again agreeing to accept his QSL chores, county hunting only.

WB4UHN, Hugh - My special thanks to some of the MARAC members and county hunters who made it possible for me to submit my log to Dorothy for the "whole ball of wax". As a practicing orthopaedic surgeon it is not possible for me to be on the air during the right time for my counties. Jay, KD8GL made long distance calls to my home and to my office to get me on the air for my last Georgia counties; what fortuitous situation, I just completed surgery and came back to the office for the pleasant message. Gene, N4ANV heard that WB6ALC was going to La Paz county in AZ and called me to make sure that I was aware of the time and luck held true, worked KK7X the evening before.

The consideration of the net controls, especially Cecil, WOUM was extremely helpful and I must thank everybody out there who only have voices and call signs that I hear over my speaker or phones.

My family is thankful now that I have finished and can eliminate the linear from their phone lines and TV's.

SM4EAC, Ake - I am going strong even tho I had a heart attack back in '82, and more or less back to normal. I am now working for the Swedish National Archives in the field. That means I am working away from the hometown giving

me only weekends at home. Conditions from this part of the world have not been the best for working US, but I do hope to be able to contact some of the old county-hunting friends during the last week of May and during June when my wife (SM4PUR) and I visit the US.

May 23-June 1, Wash DC (with WA3ZMY). June 1-4, Niagara Falls. June 4-25 Racine WI with WA0PFV. Hope to rent a car and do some site seeing in WI MN & IA. June 25-28 NYC. Evening of June 28 back on the plane to Sweden.

I am now highly involved in the administration of the Swedish Amateur Radio Society as a member of the board and of the Executive Council.

I wish everyone of the county hunters the very best wishes from USACA # 278.

## Q & A Column

THIS WILL BE A NEW COLUMN THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE OF US WHO EITHER (1) DIDN'T GET THE CALL OF THE MOBILE IN HOOTERVILLE COUNTY ON DEC 35, 1782 OR (2) GOT THE MOBILE CALLS BUT MISSED THE COUNTY OR (3) DID NOT GET EITHER!! OR (4) GOT THE WRONG CALL AND THE BUREAU TRIED BUT WAS UNABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOU.

PLEASE SEND YOUR "QUERIES" TO THE EDITOR, NOT TO THE NET CONTROL. WE HAVE MORE TIME TO HELP YOU OUT AND IT WON'T TAKE UP VALUABLE NET TIME.



# Members Speak!

KOAYO, Bob - HELP! I will soon be lowering the tower to replace my rotor and at that time I would like to establish a remote system for "antenna switching". Since my tower is about 150+ ft. from the shack, I am using only one coax feed line. There must be some sort of already-built switcher available and in use by one of you fine folks.

Also, does anyone have information regarding grounding towers, coax, rotor cables, etc. I have a coax switch with built-in lightning protection which I will put in the "new shack" but I'm concerned about the need to ground things at the base of the tower.

Second Subject. As some of you know, I retired from AT&T last December. What you might not be aware of is the fact that I am working again on a contract with them. Through the efforts of my wife, we have managed to keep your Newsletter coming more or less on the regular schedule by using the Postal Service between Kansas and New Hampshire. I have extended that work through JULY

ONLY!! In the meantime, please bear with us. I try to put the Newsletter together during my lunch hours with information that she sends me. I still adhere to the cutoff date of the 20th of the month. After the mail delivery of that date, she "overnites" the remaining information to me and I finish the Newsletter and "overnight" it to the printer in Kansas who puts it to press. On my trip home, I pick up the finished product, print the labels and get it in the mail. If it happens that I

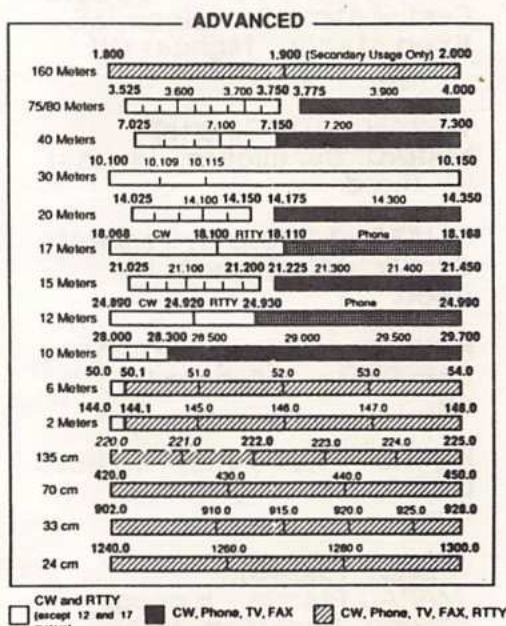
don't get home until the very end of a month, you may be a few days later than usual in getting your copy. If you don't get your copy please don't wait until two or three months before making an inquiry. Also, when you have such a problem, PLEASE drop me a line DIRECT. If you write to Vern, WAORJJ, and tell him of your problem he in turn has to re-mail it to me and you have probably lost another week. Remember, I only have a few "extra" copies each month and I use them on a first come - first served basis.

W5RIT, Dick - When reading a recent article in "CQ Magazine" about county hunters, K9KKX was written up and in the story it mentioned that he had formerly been licensed as KH6IB in Hawaii. Having spent a number of years as KH6AVO I looked back through my KH6 QSL cards and sure enough, found "KH6IB". We had QSO'd in January of 1954, 36 years ago. I wrote Ray about it and he replied, evidently having gone through his logs at great length, and reminded me that I had put out alot of counties for him, as far back as August 1967, plus several more in succeeding years.

Ray recalled the "good ole' days" in Hawaii when we had unparalleled inter-island communication of 40 meters AM with no QRM. SSB was just coming in use. I earned a "worked 100 KH6" award; Ray won the "worked 200 KH6" award. During those early 50's years at a ham convention in Honolulu I came in second in a CW contest - the winner, "Nose", KH6IJ.

W2PDM, Stu - Regarding the proposal to eliminate the "T" from RST, I am grateful that

others are rising to find ways to shorten QSO's and mobile runs, as I have been expounding for some time. However, in this particular case, we should think twice about it. Last year, when NOCYB was running a county while off the road with his motor off, a severe chirp developed on his signal, which got progressively worse. Several people worked Woody and gave XX9 reports. When I worked him I gave 555 chirp, and he immediately started the motor. Later Woody told me that if I hadn't alerted him, he would have had a dead battery. Even if this type of problem occurs once every couple of years, it is worth the time to send a (dah-dit). A bigger time-saving would be if we could persuade the 10% of the CW ops who send 9 as (dah-dah-dah-dah-dit), (Editors Note: it also takes up too much room in the Newsletter), and never dah-dit, to use dah-dit. Also, some DX and the occasional ops would not get the word of such a change in procedure, and would get hopelessly confused, expecting a T in RST.





# 10 Meter QSO Party Results

## CW RESULTS

W4HSA (43,516 pts)  
MARAC Plaque - Highest  
scoring Mobile.  
Congratulations, Jim.

KN4Y (6,156 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. 2nd Place  
Mobile.

W0IZV (4,692 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. 3rd Place  
Mobile.

W3EYF (1,998 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. 4th Place  
Mobile.

W6NNV (227,696 pts)  
MARAC Plaque - Highest  
scoring U.S. fixed station.  
Congratulations, Norm.

WD6CKT (66,600 pts) -  
MARAC Certificate. 2nd  
place U.S. fixed station.  
Highest CA fixed.

K8CW (31,784 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. 3rd place U.S.  
fixed station. Highest OH  
fixed.

WB2ABD (10,380 pts) -  
MARAC Certificate. Highest  
NY fixed.

KM4FO (2,860 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest KY  
fixed.

K6XO (2,464 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest UT  
fixed.

KC4HCH (1,275 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest AL  
fixed.

VE2AQP (5,640)  
MARAC Plaque - Highest  
scoring Canadian fixed.  
Congratulations, Andrew.

## SSB RESULTS

K7100 (236,014 pts)  
MARAC Plaque - Highest  
scoring Mobile.  
Congratulations, Bill.

KB5LAC (223,400 pts) -  
MARAC Certificate. 2nd  
place mobile.

K8CW (6,670 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. 3rd place  
mobile.

W0OWY (825 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. 4th place  
mobile.

(Note: these 4 mobiles were  
the only logs received for  
SSB).

N7TT (7,808,886 pts)  
MARAC Plaque - Highest  
scoring U.S. fixed station.  
Congratulations, John.

W0GOQ (1,417,752 pts) -  
MARAC Certificate. 2nd  
highest U.S. fixed. Highest  
CO fixed.

WD6CKT (267,900 pts) -  
MARAC Certificate. 3rd  
highest U.S. fixed. Highest  
CA fixed.

N9AG (214,740 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest OH  
fixed.

K6XO (36,279 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest UT  
fixed.

W3EYF (27,200 pts) -  
MARAC Certificate. Highest  
MD fixed.

NV4Z (2,880 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest TN  
fixed.

K2HVN (610 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest NY  
fixed.

(Note: 41 MARAC

Certificates for highest  
scoring in each state  
UNCLAIMED!)

VE6MAA (62,700 pts)  
MARAC Plaque. Highest  
Canadian fixed station.  
Congratulations, Maurice.

VE2AQP - MARAC Certificate.  
Highest Quebec fixed.

(Note: Very happy to  
receive logs from our good  
neighbors to the North. But  
these were the only  
Canadian/SSB logs.

PT2TF (51,090 pts)  
MARAC Plaque. Highest DX  
fixed station.  
Congratulations, Teresa.

SM0CHA (12,350 pts) -  
MARAC Certificate. Highest  
Sweden fixed station.

ON8WN (4 pts) - MARAC  
Certificate. Highest Belgium  
fixed station.

(Note: these were the only  
DX logs received).

Comments: Many Thanks to  
all participants, listed or not,  
for making our first 10  
meter QSO a success.  
Many encouraging  
comments were submitted,  
with promises of more fun  
and contacts next year.  
Single band great! Can  
work band opening to  
closing and still get some  
sleep! The mobiles made up  
for band discrepancies with  
their persistence! Thanks,  
mobiles! First time on 10  
meters mobile and had lots  
of fun!

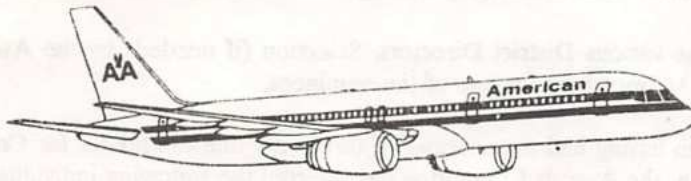
See you all, and many,  
many more we hope, in '91.

Skip, N4FSZ - QSO Party  
Coordinator.



# CONVENTION AIRLINE

AMERICAN AIRLINES HAS A SPECIAL  
FOR ALL COUNTY HUNTERS  
GOING TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION



**757 LuxuryJet**

**45 % DISCOUNT  
ON COACH FARE**

**5 % DISCOUNT  
ON ANY AMERICAN  
EXCURSION FARE**

IF YOU ARE  
PLANNING ON  
ATTENDING THE  
CONVENTION IN  
VALLEY FORGE  
DO THE FOLLOWING FOR AIR TRAVEL:

**American Airlines**

- Call 1 + 800 - 888 - 7956 -
- Ask the agent that answers for Star File # 0270GD

The agent will arrange your booking with either a 45% discount off of the regular coach fare or 5% less than the least expensive American Airlines Excursion fare. The agent will check for the least expensive fare for you while you wait.

The 800 number listed above is for Bienville Travel  
and will be answered 24 hours a day.



## MARAC AWARDS CUSTODIAN

Bill Nash, WϕOWY

6604 Hounds Run South

Mobile, AL 36608

June 1, 1990

To: Current MARAC Members

Subj: County Hunter of the Year

Once each year MARAC tries to recognize a deserving individual as the COUNTY HUNTER OF THE YEAR. This is done through a formal process and the winner is announced at the National Annual Convention.

In brief the process is: Nominations by the various District Directors, Selection (if needed) by the Awards Committee, and Balloting by current MARAC members for one of the nominees.

For 1990 we once again are very fortunate in having had nominations of three very fine candidates for County Hunter of the Year. After due consideration, the Awards Committee has selected the following individuals as being the most worthy of being on the ballot for County Hunter of the Year. Each of these three people will receive an appropriate Plaque at Valley Forge and the actual winner of County Hunter of the Year will be announced at the banquet in Valley Forge.

For this year the candidates are: (Alphabetically)

- Ms. Margaret Donaldson, WϕGOQ -- Montrose, Colorado
- Mr. Gene Kowalewski, W1TEE -- East Hartford, Connecticut
- Mr. Ed Sanders, WA6VJP -- Oxnard, California

To complete the selection process it is necessary for you to cast your ballot using the card enclosed. There should be a ballot card for each member included in this newsletter. Please fill in the call of the person whom you feel most deserving of the award by selecting one of the nominees. Other write-ins will not be counted.

The candidate receiving the most votes will be selected as County Hunter of the Year.

To help you in this process, an extract of the nomination writeups for the three candidates are printed in this Newsletter for your review.

Please mail your ballot card today since time is so short. We need your vote to make this process count. Thanks so much for your help. I need your card by the first of July in order to be counted. Thanks in advance for your help.

73 and have a good day de

  
Bill, WϕOWY  
MARAC Awards Custodian



The information listed below is given to help you make your decision and cast your ballot for County Hunter of the Year for 1990. The words as shown are those used by the District Directors in writing their nominations. The nomination write-ups have been combined where needed, in order to conserve space. Review and then fill out the ballot card and mail it today. Thank you!!

#### Nomination for Margaret Donaldson, WøGOQ.

**MOBILE OPS** Functions as a good asset to the Net when mobiling. **NET CONTROL** Runs a very high quality net operation. **CLUB SUPPORT** Is supportive of MARAC operations. **OTHER WORK** Monitors other bands frequently looking for ways to imcrease our operations on other bands. **TECH. PROF.** Usually has clean and good signals on the air. **OVERALL** Always is a very courteous operator. Keeps her composure under times of stress on the next. She is an outstanding operator.

#### Nomination for Gene Kowalewski, W1TEE.

**MOBILE OPS** Has a high level of personal commitment to excellence in mobiling. Has transmitted from all continental US counties all on CW. **CLUB SUPPORT** Has been verbally supportive of club operations. **OTHER WORK** Gene is not well known on the SSB net because he operates CW exclusively. **TECH. PROF.** Works well with his equipment to achieve the highest level of efficiency. **OVERALL** Has taken it upon himself to attempt transmitting from all US counties on CW.

#### Nomination for Ed Sanders, WA6VJP.

**MOBILE OPS** Is a very efficient and outstanding operator - all on CW. He always matches his skills to those of the person he is working with. **NET CONTROL** Displays all the fine qualities of County Hunting service. Extremely devoted to Net CW operations. Most efficient of all CW Net Controls. SSB Net Controls would do well to imitate his operations. **CLUB SUPPORT** Has actively participated in club projects for improvement of County Hunting operations. Supports club through convention attendance. **OTHER WORK** Is very proficient and effective with newcomers to the CW Net. Recruits newcomers for the club and for CW operations. **TECH. PROF.** Shows an extremen high degree of efficiency in operations by knowing where he is at in the process and what is going on at all times. **OVERALL** Shows excellence in assistance, guidance, information and control without becoming overbearing. Uses technical aids to improve his efficiency.

YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS AWARD PROCESS A  
SUCCESS. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FILL IN THE  
ENCLOSED BALLOT CARD AND MAIL IT NOT LATER THAN TODAY.

THE AWARDS CUSTODIAN NEEDS SOME LEAD TIME TO PREPARE  
THE WINNERS PLAQUE SO I REQUEST THAT YOU MAIL IT RIGHT AWAY.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND CONSIDERATION.



## AWARDS FORMS

Please check your Last County Award application forms. If they are not dated 2/90, please discard them and get new ones from the custodian. You will find them much easier to use and they are tailored for my use on the computer. An SASE will get you about 12 forms. There are specific forms for each of the three categories of Last County Awards. Get some of all three.

## AWARDS WRITE UPS

I have not had a lot of response to the question asked last month as to whether anyone likes to see the awards writeup or not. It does take some time to prepare but I don't mind if it is appreciated. I had a grand total of two responses last month. One person saying that "It's great and is read carefully every time" and "It should be continued". The other person saying that he usually doesn't take the time to read it so I might as well save my effort. What do you think? If you want me to continue, please drop me a note and let me know. No response is the same as a NO!

## NEW AWARDS

The current awards represent those that I have issued during the past month. I am encouraged by participation of the DX stations. I've looked for ways to increase their participation in the awards program, but the mailing cost is really high. Does anyone have any suggestions or ideas that would make it easier for the DX stations to participate in the awards program. If so, I'd appreciate hearing from you.

The New Awards List this month includes the following activity:

Again this month several folks collected the Last County Award Category 2. This award comes with the Last County Certificate, appropriately filled in and the MARAC Mobile Plaque with engraving. This month K0BXF got one from WB9TKR for giving Eli his last. N0COL got one from ZL2BCX for giving John his last from Marlboro, SC. KD4DJ picked up one from W4RKV for giving Mitch his last for Bingo. KB4XX got one from VE7OR for giving Rob his last for the Second Time around. WB4UHN finished them all by getting his last from KK7X and giving him the Cat 2 award for his effort.

The Jack Scroggins award had some activity this month too. N0DRX picked up the #77 award for working 50 Second Timers all on 20 Meter SSB. NX5Z also got the #76 this month for working 25 Second Timers. VE3IDJ won the #78 Jack Scroggins for working 10 Second Timers.

This was the month for awards for the Ten Meter QSO party. See the separate writeup in the N/L for all winners. Congrats to W0GOQ, W0IZV, W0OWY, WB2ABD, K2HVN, W3EYF, KM4FO, KC4HCH, W4HSA, KN4Y, NV4Z, KB5LAC, WD6CKT, W6NNV, K6XO, K7IOO, N7TT, K8CW, N9AG, ON8WN, PT2TF, SM0CHA, VE2AQP, and VE6MAA.

Some activity noted this month with the USA Counties award. KA1OCL picked up certificates for the 2nd, 4th, and 6th call areas. ZL2BCX got the #39 USA Counties for working all US Counties

The Last County Award Category 3 is awarded for having transmitted multiple Last Counties. The basic award certificate and plaque is awarded at the 25 Last Counties level and at increments of 25 thereafter. The MARAC Mobile Plaque is awarded at the 25, 50 and 75 level. Beginning at the 100 Level, the MARAC Special plaque is awarded with endorsement plates available for each 25 increment thereafter. This award is repeating so it is possible to end up with several Special LC - Cat 3 plaques. Those winning this award this month in one form or another include KD4DJ for 25 last counties. W4HSA got two such awards this month for the 25 and the 50 Last County levels. KB5WY got his first LC-3 this month for 25 LC's. WA6VJP picked up the number 36 award at the 75 LC level this month. K7IOO got the #68 award for his 50 Level Plaque. N9DEH has worked his way up to the 150 LC level with the #17 award at that level. Eli took time out from his travels to catch up with a little paper work and earned the #4 award at the 300 level and the #2 award at the 325 level. VE1AIT motors around the US a little too by his having earned the #67 award for 50 Last Counties.

Those winning the Mobile or Mobile Achievement awards this month include W4HSA who got the Cat 2 for transmitting all GA counties to N7TT. N4UMR got the Cat 4 award for working WB5YDE in 100 Counties. N4SF picked up two awards this month. He got the Cat 3 award for transmitting 187 counties and the Cat 1 award for transmitting 15 states. WB5YDE got the Cat 3 award for transmitting 100 Counties to N4UMR and WA6WHQ got the Cat 2 award for working KK7X in 15 states. K7IOO got the Cat 2 Achievement award for transmitting all OR counties all on 20 Meters, SSB. KK7X received the Cat 2 award for working WA6WHQ from 15 states. WB9NUL got a double this month for working VE3RN from 25 states and 250 counties so Joyce gets two awards. VE3RN also got two awards for having worked WB9NUL in 25 states and 250 counties.

N4SF earned the Union County award with all seals this month for having worked all 18 Union Counties. WA6WHQ got the basic award for working 6 Union Counties. ZL2BCX claimed all Union Counties so he gets the award with all seals for all 18 worked.

The Cliff Corne award is earned for working holders of the USA-CA All Counties award. NX5Z earned the #426 award this month for working 100 such holders. VE3IDJ also worked 100 holders thereby earning the #427 award.

A new Associate award this month went to NX5Z for working MARAC members for a total of 429 points. I wonder how many possible points one could get working for this award?

Another certificate is on the way to WA6WHQ for earning the M-50-M award for working Mobiles in 48 states. NX5Z also got the basic award this month for working Mobiles in 48 states.

A new Second Timer this month is VE7OR. Rob earned the #92 award for working all US counties a second time, mixed bands and modes. Your plaque will be on the way shortly Rob.

Of course there were many Last County Award Category One winners this month as there are every month. Too many to list individually. Someplace around 350 awards this month and except for the ones listed previously, they are the LC-1 awards so you can see where the majority of awards fall.

The honor roll of Last County Award Holders shows those that have earned 100 or more Last County awards.

## MARAC LAST COUNTY AWARD HONOR ROLL

| Call   | Last Counties | Call    | Last Counties | Call   | Last Counties | Call   | Last Counties |
|--------|---------------|---------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| KB7QO  | 1065          | WA3ZMY  | 226           | N0GYN  | 136           | N9CLZ  | 114           |
| K9DCJ  | 498           | WA2TJL  | 222           | W0KMH  | 135           | W7LQT  | 112           |
| N0BHO  | 408           | K4QFK   | 215           | K5OUK  | 135           | W07N   | 111           |
| W1TEE  | 369           | KA0HJR  | 176           | KD9Q   | 135           | KL7IAA | 108           |
| WB9RCY | 365           | WB6ALC  | 171           | WB3DWH | 131           | K1VSJ  | 108           |
| WB9TKR | 339           | W5AWT   | 169           | K9GTQ  | 129           | KG5J   | 108           |
| N7AKT  | 292           | N2BL    | 166           | K1QPV  | 127           | KB4XK  | 107           |
| W1WLW  | 290           | N9DEH   | 161           | WD4HVZ | 125           | KA3DRO | 105           |
| KB5FU  | 270           | KC0MB   | 156           | WA1UVX | 123           | WB4FBS | 105           |
| VE1RQ  | 250           | K6HZI   | 156           | W5ILR  | 123           | N4ANV  | 104           |
| WB5YDH | 245           | WB8SNO  | 154           | WA3TUC | 119           | WA7NNH | 103           |
| W7GHT  | 242           | WB4FFV  | 153           | N0CKN  | 117           | W3XE   | 102           |
| K1NWE  | 231           | LQT-WBZ | 152           | KK0L   | 116           | KC3YT  | 101           |
| W0OWY  | 228           |         |               |        |               |        |               |

## AWARDS HISTORY

If you would like a copy of your awards history, drop me a note and I will bring a copy of it with me to the convention at Valley Forge this summer. I will print it out just a day or two before I leave so that you can have the most current information. Also it is possible for me to print out a listing of the Last County Awards that you have applied for. Again let me know ahead of time so I can get it printed out to bring with me to Valley Forge. I might note that these printouts will contain only the awards that have been processed through the computer system.



## THE LASER PRINTER

Last month I reported on the progress of the Laser Printer and that project is still in progress. More programming has been accomplished and we have started actual use of a Laser Printer. By now some of you have received some Last County Awards that were printed on the Laser Printer. As time permits we will reprint the award certificates and gradually cut over completely to the Laser Printer for award certificate printing. I am using my own personal laser printer right now for limited use but will probably have the club's laser printer here and installed within a couple of weeks. We need only the appropriate switch, filters and cables to put it into production. Some of the award certificates have been reprinted for use with the Laser Printer and we will cut over to them gradually increasing our use of the Laser Printer.

Sad to say that the SAMPLE CERTIFICATE sent out last month to many of you was returned by some who did not understand that it was a sample. It was not a certificate sent in error. I intended by the use of the "Odd" data on it and the note in this column to alert you to the fact that it was a Sample. Several good folks returned it to me. I will be more explicit if I do that in the future. HI HI.

## THE SOAPBOX

If specific application forms for other than the Last County awards are not available, please use 8 1/2" X 11" paper for your applications. I do have prepared now an application for the Union County Award and the M-50-M awards. If you are planning on applying for either of them, please send an SASE to me for the application forms.

## COUNTY HUNTER ACTIVITIES CURRENT SCHEDULE

|                   |                     |                 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| May 18-19, 1990   | Amsterdam, New York | Mini            |
| Convention        | WB2NFB 518-762-1337 |                 |
| July 17-22, 1990  | Valley Forge, Penn. | MARAC National  |
|                   | WA3TUC 215-887-0560 |                 |
| Aug. 17-19, 1990  | Marysville, Wash.   | Mini Convention |
|                   | WA7ETH 206-653-6739 |                 |
| Sept. 28-29, 1990 | Mt. Horeb, Wisc.    | North Central   |
| Mini              | K9DCJ 608-795-2672  |                 |
| Nov. 2-3, 1990    | Murfreesboro, Tenn. | Southeast Mini  |
|                   | KM4W 615-728-7379   |                 |
| Mar. 9-10, 1991   | Ten Meters          | 1991 QSO Party  |
|                   | N4FSZ 703-629-3582  |                 |
| Mar. 16-17, 1991  | Ten Meters          | 1991 QSO Party  |
|                   | N4FSZ 703-629-3582  |                 |
| July 10-14, 1991  | Minneapolis, Minn.  | MARAC National  |
|                   | WA6LKL 612-888-3822 |                 |

And thats all for this month. I hope you had a good month.

73 es Hamma Gooday, de Bill, W6OWY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THE ABOVE MATERIAL WAS PRESENTED "AS RECEIVED" FROM BILL, WOOWY. HE PREPARED THIS USING "WORD PERFECT", A WORD PROCESSING PROGRAM I AM IN THE PROCESS OF PERSONAL EVALUATION. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR CRITIQUE ON THIS ARTICLE AND FORWARD YOUR COMMENTS TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU - BOB, KOAYO.

## The Amateur's Code (ARRL)

(Editor's Note: The following was devised by Paul Segal, W9EEA, in 1928 and has been updated several times by the ARRL since then. He was the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director at the time. I found them as timely as ever and so well thoughtout that it covers all aspects of amateur radio, even county hunting. I will run them one "CODE" at a time under this banner. Bob, KOAYO)

1. "The radio amateur is considerate...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others". How much unpleasantness could be avoided if we all simply followed that basic tenet! And yet, it's no more than what we had learned about successful human relations by the time we left kindergarten.

## Counties To Finish USA-CA

WA9PQY, 708-331-8184 20 Meters

KS Pottawatomie KY Knox MN Lake NE  
Dodge Hitchcock

K0GEN 707-464-4811 M-F 0000z - 0500z  
Sat, Sun, Holidays 1400z - 0500z

GA Johnson ID Fremont MO Christian  
Worth NE Thomas Thurston Wayne ND  
Oliver

## Counties Needed To Finish A State

KA3DRO Rod 301-398-5006 (days)  
301-398-7074 (evenings/weekends)

AL Perry Hale Walker Jackson AZ  
Greenlee NM Los Alamos WY Sublette  
UT Piute Daggett CA Mariposa Placer  
NC McDowell Franklin Tyrell



## THE FIVE BAND AWARD

For quite some time we have had under review a potential change to the confirmations required for the Five Band Counties Award. The original proposal was for elimination of confirmation requirements for this award.

During follow-on discussions some other potential alternatives were reviewed. One of these was to require confirmations until after a person had received the MARAC Second Time award. Another alternative was to allow applications either with or without confirmations and a separate award numbering sequence would identify such holders for the appropriate publicity.

After discussions at some of the Mini Conventions and some letter writing, it was decided to solicit general membership help to determine the best solution to this question.

The proposals were summarized and published in the January County Line Roadrunner. A ballot card was included with that issue and everyone was encouraged to take the time to respond by completing the ballot card, writing in any appropriate comments and firing it back to the Awards Custodian.

Thanks to everyone that participated, we probably have had the finest response to any mail balloting that MARAC has ever had. The results represent all of the members and if you didn't vote you have no room to complain.

I waited until the flow of ballot cards materially slowed down and then started to analyze the results.

### The Results

Based upon the results of the balloting we will not be making any change in the confirmation requirements for the Five Band Counties award. The largest single group responding wanted "No Change" and in addition to that, the results were so very mixed, the best solution is to make no change, at least at this time.

In addition to the breakout shown below, I also did an analysis by Call area, by holders of the USA-CA award or not, and by holders of the Second Time award or not. In all three of these cases the same trend is true, no clear cut trend is obvious.

For sake of brevity, shown below are the results by MARAC District. Congrats to the SE district for having the largest number of responses and also for having the best district participation. The SE District had almost a 30% member participation.

The five possible category votes cast are shown across the top of the chart and the results by each district are shown under each category.

NO - No Change, Conf. are required  
EL - Eliminate all Confirmations  
RQ - Require Conf. til Second Time  
AL - Allow either with publicity  
OT - Other alternatives.

|     | NO   | EL   | RQ   | AL   | OT  | Total |
|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-------|
| GL  | 30.6 | 22.2 | 25.0 | 19.4 | 2.8 | 16.5  |
| NC  | 36.6 | 7.3  | 21.9 | 29.3 | 4.9 | 18.8  |
| NE  | 39.3 | 17.9 | 32.1 | 7.1  | 3.6 | 12.8  |
| PA  | 37.5 | 12.5 | 15.6 | 28.1 | 6.3 | 14.7  |
| SC  | 31.2 | 28.1 | 18.8 | 18.8 | 3.1 | 14.7  |
| SE  | 38.8 | 16.3 | 18.4 | 20.4 | 6.1 | 22.5  |
| Tot | 35.8 | 17.0 | 21.5 | 21.1 | 4.6 | 100.0 |

Except for the total line or total column the results are shown as a percentage of response within districts. The Total column on the right shows the percent of total responses for the district. The total line across the bottom show the percent of responses for each category.

### The Comments

Most of the write in comments received appeared to follow the votes, at least in context. We received many long letters and they were excerpted so they could be included in the general comments.

A award means nothing if I had not earned it. A cheater has to live with himself. A novice or tech should not be eligible for the award. A sincere person is looking for actual accomplishments. Activity after getting the USA-CA # is for personal pleasure. After 1500 you would be on your honor. All claimed contacts must be fully logged at both ends. Allow endorsement to say with confirmations. Allow with or without confirms is a superior method. Allowing either is best choice especially for low incomers. Already have 1000 CHRCs that I have no other use for. Also eliminate confirmation requirements of all MARAC awards. Also no confirms after 2nd time award would be okay. Anyone really wanting the award should be willing to QSL. Anyone prostituting their integrity damages themselves only. Anything good is worth working for. As a hobby, we are supposed to be an ethical group. Award certificate available for unconfirmed contacts. Award obtainment by misrepresentation cheats on the awardee. Award would be very popular with out the expense of QSLing. Awards are diminish-



ed in value if too easily obtained. Awards are a personal achievement affecting no other person.

Believing mobilers locations should cause contact belief too.

Can't trust all because end justifies the means. Changing regulations would make it a rubber stamp. Cheaters will cheat no matter what the rules say. Cheaters can win awards but it is hollow empty victory. Confirmation required for most other ham awards. Confirmations must be required or award will be meaningless. Confirmations are a useful way of self checking. Confirmations should be required to go along with other ops. Confirmations should be required for all awards. Confirmations will separate given counties from earned cty's. Confirmations should be required to maintain integrity. Confirmations thru 2nd time okay with follow on verification. Confirmations are duplicates of those collected for CQ award. Cost becomes prohibitive after the first time. Cost is entirely too high to confirm for all five bands.

Do not like the dual system proposed (with or without). Do not cheapen the significance of this award. Don't change horses in the middle of the stream. Don't discount. Doubt that I will try this ambitious task.

Eliminate confirmations after 2nd time award is good step. Eliminate confirmations after 2nd time award is good step. Eliminate only for FBCA, all other awards remain the same. Eliminate for this award only. Endorsement saying no confirmations is a negative approach. Entire system of awards is based on integrity. Errors will be corrected by the confirmation process. Expense after I have done it a time or two is negligible.

FBCA should not be awarded until all 5 bands are confirmed. For those that want to confirm, do it.

Guidelines to be set for verification for acceptance.

Hard enough to keep up w/ conf. contacts let alone non-conf. Has anyone actually figured the total cost to go 5 band? Honor is critical in this program. Hope that the majority opinion represents the club majority. How do we know the mobile is where he says he is.

I am a firm believer in confirmed contacts. I am old fashioned, I believe in honesty. I don't collect confirmations. I don't collect awards. I have no reservations about confirming all contacts. I know that I have worked the counties. I like the idea of indicating which way it is done. I personally confirm all contacts but this is burdensome. I personally believe that no change is necessary. I prefer confirmations but essentially neutral. I

question the validity of awards without confirmations. I will be more comfortable having contacts confirmed. I wish I could find out what the rules are. I won't pursue this award if its too expensive or hard. I'd never look at an award which I hadn't earned honestly. If a person wants the award, follow the sponsors rules. If I can't do it honestly, I won't do it at all. If others want to do it unconfirmed, why not? If QSL's are required, the award will not be accepted. If someone wants to circumvent the rules, they will do it. Including first time around should all be up front confirmed. Individuals who do not follow rules should not be awarded. It can be expensive but no integrity without confirmations. It is good the way it stands now, no change. It would shout loudly, liar liar, to me. It's all based on integrity. It's the perfect answer.

Just declare everyone a winner and no confirmations needed. Just publish your accomplishment yourself.

Keep it the way it is to maintain the integrity. Keep it the old fashioned way.

Let cheaters cheat, they are only fooling themselves. Let us not degrade it's purpose. Lets keep all the honest county hunters honest. Like getting a license without learning the requirements. Little activity on bingo award shows that folks don't care. Log data should be provided only when requested. Log data only required after 2nd time award.

Make it to easy and people will cheat. Many are started under the original rules. Many tourists attracted to the basic award. May get more involved if we go for no chrc's for anything. Mobiles who do not accept relays are selfish and arrogant. My word was good before and is good after .

Need separate category for USA-CA's or SWL's. No confirms after holding 2nd time award. No confirmations should be needed for USA-CA holders. No confirmation after second time is best compromise. No easy and cheap solution. No need for two gold seals on the cliff corne award. No need to tempt potential cheaters. No need to get the FBCA if you do it without confirmations. No need to create a class of better than others. No need to pay for confirmations at all. Normally all awards of significance require confirmation. Not enough activity on FBCA to worry about making changes. Not pursuing award because of expense. Novices and techs are eligible for FBCA under current rules.

Only really serious county hunters are trying for FBCA. Opposed to any confirmation requirements.

People should bear the expense if they want the award. People wanting this award should be pre-



pared to work for it. Personally feel no need for confirmations. Please don't make this a rich man's game.

QSLs are unnecessary for awards. Question credibility of whole program because of CQ's stand.

Real bag of worms without confirmations. Recipient only cheats himself and no one else. Reduction of requirements will diminish value of award. Regarding expenses, what hobby is with expense. Relaxed requirements will cause awards to be meaningless. Removal of confirmation would open up the activity. Req confirmations after 2nd time award is also okay. Require confirmations for 1st time only. Require confirmations until USA-CA award is achieved. Require confirmation as long as other MARAC awards do too. Require confirmation at the basic 1500 level. Require mobiles to submit copies of logs for verification. Requiring confirmation until after 2nd time keeps integrity.

Should not be a requirement after 2nd time award. Should not allow plaques to those that are not confirmed. Should not add degrees of difficulty to the awards. Should not force this burden on others no mind what I do. Should also eliminate confirmations for 2nd time award. Some form of change appears appropriate. Some mobilers are not even logging contacts anymore. Specify which procedure the applicant used. Starting date for non confirmed contacts after publication. Stick to the present requirements. Sure the standards are high.

The 160 meter band should be included. The 2nd time award should be administered the same way. The basic USA-CA need the controls. The CH'er can do as he chooses and appropriate rewards come. The cost spread over the time to earn the award is nil. The cost of confirmations is a small part of the total exp. The cost is getting out of hand. The expense is nil when you send out several cards together. The greater task of confirming 5 bands weeds out cheaters. The net controls confirm all contacts anyway. The postage for FBCA is too much after going for 2nd time. The whole system is based on trust. Then everyone would be happy. This award is too precious to allow for loop holes. This award results from an individuals voluntary efforts. This is really a personal goal. This minimum confirmations requirements keeps the cost down. Those wanting this award will be willing to work for it. Too expensive for those on limited income. Too many contacts claimed in contests with out county name. Too many cards are signed without logs being checked. Too many confirmations is too expensive for most CHers. Too many confirmations is too expensive for most CHers. Too many expect a lot for less. Too much loss of integrity now. Too much paper work and filing. Too much expense if confirmations are required.

Unable to understand the rules of the award. Unconfirmed contacts should be verified on a random basis. USACA holders need confirm 1st 1500 on each of five bands. Use a sampling to verify integrity. Use certificate endorsements as confirmed or log information. Use notarized statement of totals for each band. Using log data would be sufficient.

Very few 'cheaters' have shown up in the past.

W/O confirms should be backed up by other awards. We all know whos active enough to have qualified for award. We are too elite already and don't need special confirmation. We should be able to trust CHers with their word. What is the difference between this award and the CQ award. What will be the next compromise. Whatever the outcome, I will continue to have all confirmed. Who is going to check all these contacts. Why not have hams check logs to provide verification. Will go with either way since many folks prefer that. Will go with either way since many folks prefer that. Will go after FBCA only if confirmations are required. Will go with majority but would like to eliminate cost. Will not apply for any awards after USACA because of the cost. With confirmations on all five bands the award is meaningful With or without confirmations would be fair to everyone. Would like to see totals printed in the road runner. Would like to have seen a 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice on ballot. Would personally prefer no change. Would personally prefer no change.

## Thank You

A special thanks to all that participated in the voting. The outcome may not have been exactly the way you would have liked it, but we hope that you can support the decision.

Bill Nash, W0OWY, Custodian

Awards Committee Members

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Tom Storm, KB0KS     | Vern Olson, WA0RJJ   |
| Cliff Taylor, WB4FBS | Skip Gee, N4FSZ      |
| Jim Sanders, W4HSA   | Mitch Clemons, W4RKV |
| Barry Brewer, WA5DTK | Don McMinds, WD7X    |
| Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL |                      |



# NORTH CENTRAL MINI

September 28-29, 1990

KARAKAHL INN BUSINESS HIGHWAY 18-151  
MT. HOREB, WISCONSIN 53572

Twenty Miles west of Madison, Wisconsin

Make your own reservations.

Call 608 + 437 - 5545 or Use the Following Form

KARAKAHL INN P.O. Box 101; Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 608 /437-5545  
Conference or Organization M.A.R.A.C.

Arrangements have been made with your organization for rooms to be held until 2 weeks prior to the opening date of your event to insure your room. Reservations must be made by September 14th. Please make your reservations promptly.

Check-in time-4:00 PM

Check-out time-12:00 Noon

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX MC VISA DINERS CARTE BLANCHE

Address \_\_\_\_\_ CC# \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle Type of Accommodations Desired: Smoking Non-Smoking

Single (One Person) ..... \$39.00

Double (Two Persons) ..... 42.00

\$8.00 Charge for each adt'l person in room, plus 5% states sales tax.

Under age 12 Free.

Golf Course on Premises

Prize Donations Appreciated

Friday Night Fish Fry / Salad Bar

Indoor Pool

BYOB

At the Inn

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$10. Couple \$8. Single \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Nite Buffet \$8.50 inc tax & tip X # \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Nite Dinner \$12. inc tax & tip X # \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out to Arnie Bachmann, K9DCJ and send check to:  
Rt. 1, Box 85; Blue Mounds, WI 53517-9713  
(608) 795 - 2672



# The County Line Road Runner



PUBLISHED BY MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB, INC.

## THE COUNTY LINE ROAD RUNNER

Editor, R. Dyson, KOAYO  
8943 S. Overhill Circle  
De Soto, KS 66018

Member



R1764 NODRX 9105 0  
SHELDON MANN  
1618 WEST PINE ST  
STILLWATER MN 55082

A ROAD RUNNER IS A  
VERY FAST BIRD!!