

# COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## FOR CW OPS By WOHKF

Are you old enough to remember when working CW you always ran the audio gain wide open and used the RF gain to adjust the volume? Sometime in the intervening years the situation reversed itself and now the accepted practice is to use maximum RF gain and adjust the volume with the audio control—and I never found out why it was. I still do it the old way and find that the reduced RF gain makes for a lot less unnecessary racket. Incidentally, that's the very principle that direct conversion receivers operate on, i.e., almost all the gain is at audio frequency. some CW ops also prefer to use communication type earphones instead of the now commonly used hi fi type because the wide frequency response of the latter respond to a lot o noise which is of no use in CW reception. Old time ops also used to reverse the leads to one of a pair of earphones (they were called "cans" then). As supplied, they are wired in phase and reversing one set of leads puts them out of phase thus canceling some of the random noise, supposedly. Might be worth a try if you can do it easily. My favorite cans for CW are a pair of WWII Signal Corps, Model R-14, made by the Wm. J. Murdock Co. Murdock was making earphones way back when I first got started in ham radio, which was closer to WWI than it was to WWII.

Getting back to the present, in mid-April, WA4IMC was heard running the county line of Bacon and Coffee, GA. If he'd had a pocket full of beans he would have had a meal! Coffee county was named for John Coffee, an Indian War hero, and the other one was for Augustus Octavius Bacon, a Captain in the Confederate Army. Now that we have a Washington County award (31 states) maybe we ought to have a Jackson County award (24 states) for Andy Jackson.

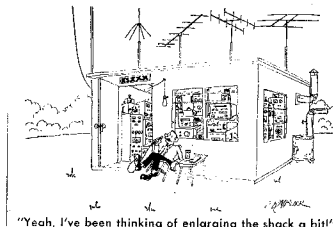
Our move to 14,056.5 at least got the packet fanatics out of our hair but CQ for April (page 112) predicts that

instead of keyboards they will soon be using voice-operated packet radio. Seems like that would be a legitimate reason to agitate for having the whole shebang banished to the phone bands. Then we could move back down to our old frequency and everybody would be happy again. (At least WE would be!)

## NET OPERATING TIPS By Mitch, W4RKV

For those working on Bingo, it would be a big help if the mobiles who have a USA-CA number (and thus are a wildcard) would announce that fact at the beginning of their run, i.e., "W4RKV USA-CA 501 Tipton, TN" unless the NCS has previously indicated that you are good for Bingo when announcing your call and county. Let me hasten to add that it is NOT the responsibility of the NCS to keep up with who is good for Bingo and who isn't; when I started on Bingo I made it a point to find out myself who had a number and thus good as a wildcard. As Randy pointed out to me one day, tho, when you're operating mobile you may have to rely on your memory, and with approximately 700 USA-CA holders, that may overload your memory bank. For that reason, many NCS's announce it when they are sure a mobile is good for Bingo in his current county.

Incidentally, if you are working on Bingo (or think you may later on), why not make it a point to obtain a set of the rules from the horse's mouth instead of relying on a verbal explanation from someone else? The horse's mouth is the award's sponsor, the Mobile QSL Buro (large SASE, one unit postage.)



"Yeah, I've been thinking of enlarging the shack a bit!"



# AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE

## ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARD

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMATEUR RADIO JOURNALISM

\*\*\*  
THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER \*\*\*

EDITED BY:

Robert L. Dyson, K0AYO

having been judged

EXCELLENT

is hereby awarded this testimonial in official recognition of the excellence of its performance and outstanding contribution to Amateur Radio Journalism during 1990.

April 1, 1991

Dated

*James D. Divil*  
Vice-President A.R.N.S.  
KB5AWM

*Lee Kunkle*  
President, A.R.N.S.  
W9MOL

# THE AWARDS BOARD

Bill Nash, W0OWY

P.O. Box 83403

Phoenix, Arizona 85071

May 1, 1991

## TO CONFIRM OR NOT TO CONFIRM

As most of you know for the past 18 months or so there have been ongoing discussions relative to confirming or not confirming contacts in order to obtain MARAC awards. With the increased postage rates earlier this year, I have been receiving more comments relative to this issue all suggesting that we change the rules to reduce the cost of working for MARAC awards.

Accordingly this was discussed by the Awards Committee members present at Texoma (South Central Mini) and the committee came up with a recommendation that was presented to the members present at the Mini.

With only one dissenting vote, the County Hunters at Texoma all agreed to adopt the awards committee recommendation. That recommendation was to change the basic MARAC rule that states all MARAC awards are for confirmed contacts unless otherwise noted.

In it's place would be a rule that states all MARAC awards may be obtained by submitting a log list of contacts or other required information without necessarily having all contacts confirmed. This, of course, has no bearing on any other awards such as USA-CA, 3rd time, Bingo or 4th time awards.

Further it was proposed all awards be made available for confirmed contacts and be denoted as such by having the letter "C" after the award number.

This change would be easy for the custodian to implement as far as the record keeping and would represent no additional work on the part of the custodian. The computer system will be able to handle this change as it is proposed and it would only be necessary to add a statement of confirmed or not confirmed to the various award applications.

Following the meetings at Texoma, the Custodian talked to all award committee members, officers and Board Members of the club. With only one exception, all agreed that the proposed change should be adopted as soon as possible. During the most recent club meeting held in St. Paul, a vote of support was taken and the change is supported by the vote of the attendees.

A vote of the members is not mandatory for this change but it is thought to be in the best interests of the membership if all have an opportunity to make their views known. To accommodate this change a vote card is enclosed with this issue of the Road Runner. Please take the time to fill out the card and return it now. (Note: For those families with multiple MARAC members, both should make their votes known and sign the card in the appropriate space.) Please return the card as soon as possible so that we can proceed with any changes.

## THE FROM AND THE TO OF IT!

More than once this past week I received Last County applications with the **FROM** and the **TO** call signs reversed. (At least it looked to me like they might be reversed). So it was necessary for me to send them back to the originator in order to make sure what was really wanted. This takes a lot of time and unnecessary postage. Time to review the **FROM** and the **TO**. Unlike our use of reply cards which are filled out by you (for the mobiler) the award application forms are a simple request for an award to be sent **FROM** you **TO** a person that gave you a last county. Under normal conditions it will be your call in the **FROM** space and the mobiler's call in the **TO** space. If all else fails, read instructions in the Last County Award Application Book.

## LAST COUNTY APPLICATION FORMS

Had a letter that asked what the procedure was to obtain the Last County award application forms. I will review it briefly here so everyone knows. First of all the LC-1, 2 or 3 forms are available from the Custodian at any time no cost if you provide the stamped addressed envelope. One unit of postage will handle about 12 forms. Also B&B Shop will send 50 at no charge if you pay the postage. Another way to get them is to order the Last County Award Application book from The B&B Shop. \$2 will get you a padded book form of 50 LC-1s, and 2 each LC-2 and LC-3 sent postage paid. Also included will be the instructions for completing the forms.

## QSL MANAGERS

From a recent submission for a Last County, Category 2 award, I was reminded that not everyone remembers when submitting award applications for other stations (for example when you are the QSL manager), you must use the membership status of the other station in determining the proper fee for the award. If you are submitting an award application for XX2XYZ, use the membership status of XX2XYZ to determine the fee amount. In the case of a Category 2 Last County award, the fee would be \$20, if XX2XYZ is a current member with dues paid. If XX2XYZ has 1.) never joined MARAC or 2.) has been a member previously but let his membership lapse, then the fee would be \$30. for the Last County Category 2 award.

The same process applies when applying for LC awards for yourself because the station that got the LC contact never applied for the LC award for you. In this case, you use the membership status of the other stations since you are applying for an award as though it was coming from the other station.

## POSTAL RATE INCREASE

I think everyone must be expecting the award fee to go up since it looks like everyone is trying to get the drawers cleaned up. I had one envelope this past week that yielded a check for \$190. for awards to be processed just from one person alone. That along with the hundreds of other awards has really kept me out of the local drinking emporium recently. On a more serious vein, it appears to me that the fee schedule we set in place last year should be able to carry the new cost of postage. So for the time being **No Increase** in award fees. Now if I could just get some of 'timers to acknowledge that the fee has changed from when it was a buck a throw.

## SOUTH CENTRAL MINI

The South Central Mini was held at Lake Texoma, OK on the 8th and 9th of March with a very good attendance. Jerry had about 43 registrations submitted and had 78 for the Sat. night banquet. A short meeting was held Saturday afternoon, a golf tourney was held, and Barry, W9UCW gave a good presentation on antennas. A fun time for all at the banquet with prizes and some award plaques were presented.

Those attending included N0CKC, W0DSY, W0OWY, K0T-X, W0UM, W3DYA, N4ANV, K4BZV, K4CCW, WB4FB, WA4HXG, WA4N8C, AB4OI, N4UGH, WD5AAH, W5AWT, WD5XCDM, K5CKQ, N5DUQ, W5HDK, WB5HLR, KF5HY, KG5J, WD5JGS, N5MIV, K5OUK, W5MW, KA5NXP, N5QOS, W5RIH, W5UJO, K5CUO, W5VBH, KA5VWD, KESWL, WB5YDE, NX5Z, NV6I, NV6L, K1GYX, K8BBH, N8BGF, N9BDM, WB9NUL, WA9QNI, and W9UCW. If I missed listing anyone's call, I apologize. Some of my notes got misplaced during the week due to the moving effort. The setting on the edge of Lake Texoma along with just perfect weather made for a very memorable weekend. Jerry has agreed to do a repeat performance next year with dates of March 6th and 7th being selected. Be sure and make your plans to attend in 1992.

## CUSTODIAN MOVES

Along with attending the mini convention at Texoma, the awards custodian was also enroute to a new OTH in Phoenix, AZ. This move was prompted by a job change for Loretta and having a lot of family in Phoenix. We have purchased a home in Phoenix and are still trying to get moved in completely. I had the computer loaded in the van while at Texoma and gave a demo on awards processing there.

Effective immediately, the new address is:

P.O. Box 83403  
Phoenix, AZ 85071  
Phone (602) 938-4691

## WHEN IS A LAST COUNTY SEAL

I received an inquiry from a County Hunter recently that asked about when a certificate should be expected and when should a seal be expected for giving Last County contacts. For an answer, lets look at it this way.

The very first LC award you receive is a brand new certificate. This might be a new County Putter Outer's Sequence #1 award. Then as additional Last County awards are earned, the Red, Blue & Gold seals are issued for that certificate. The sequence numbers will follow as #2, #3, and #4 in that order.

When the next Last County award is earned, it will be a new certificate carrying it's own certificate (award) number and will be sequence #5. Again this would be followed by the Red, Blue and Gold seals.

This same process is followed regardless of how many LC awards are earned. Each certificate carries it's own award number and they are issued sequentially from a common base of award numbers. One example might be that you have award # 11675 with all seals. When it is time to issue the next LC award to you, #11753 might be the next one in order to go out so it would go to you.

One additional note is that in the case of a Last County, Category Two award issued for the Last in the U.S., the certificate is issued with all seals as a special. This LC-2 award counts as 1 towards the LC-3 award. A LC-1 award counts as one towards the LC-3 award and each seal issued for a LC-1 certificate also counts as one towards the LC-3 plaque.

## NEW AWARDS

As promised earlier, this will be a recap of new awards, other than the Last County, Category 1 award covering approximately the last two months.

The Associate award is won for working other members of MARAC. Different points are obtained for working Charter, Regular and Associate members of the Club. N6OKX stayed with it long enough to go over the top getting 1014 points and winning the #180 award with all seals.

The Cliff Corne, Jr. Memorial Award is achieved by working holders of the USA-CA All Counties award. This award is in memory of Cliff Corne, Jr. who was the first amateur radio operator to work other amateurs in all US Counties. During the past couple of months three new members of this exclusive group have earned their Cliff Corne number. They are W4BWR getting the #435 award, AG2K getting the #436 and K8BXT getting the #437 award. Incidentally the original Cliff Corne awards were reserved to the first 100 holders of the USA-CA award and were issued in parallel to the USA-CA All counties awards at that time. That is where the usage of "Cliff Corne No." came into being. To refer to a USA-CA number as a Cliff Corne Number is correct only if the number

The Five Band Counties Award is available for working stations in all counties of the US on one or more bands. The basic award can be issued for having confirmed as little as 1500 county contacts on any one band. K8BXT is the latest winner of this award getting certificate #41 endorsed as #35 for the basic 20 meter SSB contacts.

The Jack Scroggins Memorial Award is issued in memory of the First Awards Custodian of MARAC, Jack Scroggins. It is issued for working holders of MARAC's Second Time Around award. During the past couple of months several folks have either won this award or upgraded their existing award to a new level. KA0NVT upgraded his #87 award to the 50 level getting the Blue Seal. N2JNE also did the same with his #82 award. WD5CPK and K8BXT both worked 50 holders of the 2nd Time Award thus obtaining their JS Memorial Awards #93 and 94 respectively each with Red and Blue seals.

The Karl Adkins Net Control award named in honor of Karl Adkins, WA6MAR as the ultimate recognition of his efforts for county hunting is achieved by operating as Net Control or Assistant Net Control on any of the recognized net frequencies. During the past month is has been my honor to send K16YX the #20 award at the 1000 hours level with all seals for his untiring efforts during the past several months, primarily on the Seventy Five Meter Net. Our thanks to you Dave for all your fine efforts.

The Last County Award, Category 2 is obtained by giving someone the last of all US counties as they finish working all US counties. This award certificate comes with the MARAC Mobile Plaque which has a very nice engraved plate on the side of it. During the past couple of months the recipients of this plaque and award have been W0KZZ from N2BL for Logan, ND. WA0SBR picked up three of these plaques this time from KC0ZU, N7BKW and NV6L for contacts from Pawnee, NE; Appanoose, IA and Logan, NE. Ed really gets around doesn't he? When WA3TUC needed to finish up for his fourth time, he called on his friend WB3HTK to give him a contact for Montgomery, PA so Walt will get the award and plaque. WB4FBS went out for a drive one night and as I recall hearing about it, he circled the county needed for several hours until WD0EAM could get on the air so Cliff could give Ken his last of all. WD4HRN was driving around one day giving out some contacts and unbeknownst to him, WDX4KEF was monitoring as Clay went through Marion, GA giving WDX4KEF his reception of the last of all for the fourth time. AA4LB made K4JFT very happy when he gave out a contacts from Fannin, GA for the last of all. W5ILR gave WA5R1X a contact from Knox, TX for his last of all too. W3SQA needed Floyd, VA to finish them all up and K5OUK came to his rescue by giving him the needed contact from that "rare" county. Mike, K5OUK also needed a 'last of all' and called upon K5SWL for a special contact to do it for Mike from Marshall, OK. When he went through Camas, ID little did K7IOO know that I2PHN was just waiting for that contact for his last of all. On his recent swing east KB7QO went to Claiborne, MS to get a contact for K8GPC finishing him up with all counties. WA8RSQ got the award and plaque for giving W7GVF a contact from Wirt, WV. N9DEH picked up the LC-2 award and plaque this month also getting one from NV4Z for her last from York, PA. WA9QNI does it in doubles getting two LC-2s this month. One from N7IT for a contact from Tyler, TX and the other from W5RIT for a contact from Crosby, TX.

The Last County Award, Category 3 is awarded by MARAC for having transmitted 25 Last Counties. Those folks winning this award this time around are KA0NVT got #50 at 75 LCs. W0WOY did it at the 250 level getting the 8th award at that level. WITEE got the #3 at the 450 level. N3DRO got the #26 at the 125 level and K3CYT claimed #27 at the same level. At the 75 level, WD5AHH got the #48 award. WD5CPK earned his first LC-3 award for 25 Last Counties and N6OKX got the #47 award at the 75 level. W7GVF made the custodian work extra hard by getting four LC-3 awards this time. Gene got the Basic 25, the #83 at 50 Level, the #51 award at the 75 level and the #49 award at the 100 Last County level. K8DTO

picked up a new LC-3 award for the first time for him this month at the 25 Level. N8ELQ did the same for the first time. KD8GL got two of them this time getting the #50 award at the 100 level and the #28 award at the 125 Last County level. N9CHU earned his 100 level award #48 this month and WB9NUL did it in pairs, getting the #82 award at 50 LCs and the #49 award at 75 LCs.

WD5JGS earned the MARAC Merit award this month for hosting the SC Mini convention at Texoma. Those assisting Jerry and also getting Merit awards were K5OUK for being the Master of Ceremonies, WB9NUL for managing the Hospitality Room, and W9UCW for presenting the antenna forum. WDX5JGS also earned a MARAC Merit award for her assistance and support to Jerry in helping make it a great success.

The Cat. 1 Mobile award went to WA7NNH this month with all seals for transmitting from all 50 states.

The Mobile Award, Category 2 is for working the same mobile in multiple sates. Winners this month include KWØU, WAØSBR, N3DRO, KI6YX, K8BXT (4), and N9DEH.

KE9FG earned the Mobile Award, Category 3 this month for transmitting 250 counties so his award goes with the Red Seal.

The Mobile Award, Cat. 4 is for working the same mobile in multiple counties. Winners this time include WAØSBR for giving N3DRO contacts from 100 counties, N3DRO for working Ed in those 100 counties, K8BXT for working N9DEH in 250 counties and another one for working W7LQT in 100 counties. KE9FG got one for working K9UA in 100 counties.

The Mobile Achievement Award, Cat. 1 is issued for working mobiles in all counties of a state. K8BXT earned several awards this time by working mobiles in all counties of ND, OR, RI, WY, NM, AZ, MS, NE, NV, and DE.

The Mobile Achievement Award, Cat. 2 is given for transmitting contacts from all counties of a state. K1OCL did it from all RI counties this month. KC3YT did it this month from Delaware, AA4LY did it from all South Carolina Counties.

The Mobile Achievement Award, Cat. 3 is for working the same mobile in all counties of a state. N2JNE got one for working KC3YT in all DE counties. N3DRO got one for working AA4LY in all SC counties.

The M-50-M award is issued for working mobiles in 48, 49 or 50 states. Winners this time around include WV2B for working 49 states, W4BWR for working mobiles in all 50 states, W7GVF did it the hard way by working mobiles in all 50 states from his Mobile station. K8BXT also got the award this time for working mobiles in all 50 states.

The MARAC Worked All Counties a Second Time is very sought after award and winners this time include K5OUK who got the #107 award and W5UJO who earned the #108 endorsed all 20 Meters, All ssb Mobiles.

The Union County Award is issued for working mobiles in six or more Union Counties. The several winners this time include K8BXT, N2JNE, W4BWR, and WD5CPK.

The USA Counties Award by MARAC is available for confirming contacts from counties by call area. NE5Y got the #7 award this time for working 2/3 of the 2nd call area and he also got the #8 award for 2/3rds of the 3rd call area. N6OKX got the #4 award for the 7th call area all counties and the #8 award for the 6th call area, all counties.

The YL Mobile Award is won by working Yls in multiple counties around the country. KB1AF got the #149 award this time for working Yls in 100 counties. W4BWR earned the #146 award for making 402 YL contacts. Ruth also upgraded her award almost right away by getting the gold seal for 576 contacts. KF4FP also upgraded his #123 YL award this month by logging 1000 YL contacts for the second gold seal on his

certificate. WD5CPK earned a new YL award this time getting the #147 award for working Yls in 57 counties. K8BXT earned his #148 with Red and Blue seal for doing it with Yls in 200 counties.

The Honor Roll of Last County Award Holders is a list of persons holding 100 or more Last County awards. \* = New listing on the Honor Roll.

#### MARAC LAST COUNTY AWARD HONOR ROLL

Call	Last	Call	Last	Call	Last	Call	Last
Counties	Counties	Counties	Counties	Counties	Counties	Counties	Counties
K87JO	1182	KA0HJR	203	K0CKZ	137	W7OT	112
K9DCJ	501	N281	194	KD9D	137	W3XE	114
W1TEE	474	WB4FFV	177	W7GVF	135	W07N	112
N08HO	410	K5OUK	173	K84XK	135	KJ4EJ	111
WB9RCY	365	WB6ALC	172	W0KHM	135	K1VSL	110
WB9TKR	362	K6H2I	170	W4STUC	134	VE1A1T*	109
K85FU	362	K8FLZ	170	KD8IL	133	K5CKQ*	109
W1MLU	324	K0CMB	163	K9GTQ	131	W07X	109
N7AKT	313	K7100	162	W5FS	129	KL7IAA	108
WA0SBR	263	KK0L	160	K65J	129	N4ANV	108
N9DEH	261	W8SNO	154	W490NT	127	NFBX	106
W00AY	258	W7NNH	153	W04HVZ	125	AK8A	105
VE1RO	251	LQT-WBZ	152	W41UVX	124	K2POF	104
WB5YDH	245	KA3DRO	151	K5VYT	122	W0LRH*	104
W7GHT	243	W06JH	142	W19C	119	W7KXZ*	103
K1NWE	243	K167X	142	W8CKN	118	W4CINC*	103
W5AWT	234	W51LR	140	N6ERM	117	NG0T*	102
W43ZY	231	KC3YT	139	N9CHU	116	N4EED*	102
N2JZL	223	N3DRO	138	WB4FBS	116	K7CJC*	101
K40FK	220	K1QPV	138	W4PPQY	115		

#### NOTES FROM ALL OVER

I've had letters this month from two old time county hunters both concerned about the use of Judicial Districts in Alaska. One of the folks is suggesting that either burroughs or the State Senatorial districts should be used since the P.O. Z Directory no longer recognizes the judicial districts. What do you think?

Also brought up as a concern was a general usage of the ZIP directory since many ZIP areas (cities) seem to fall outside of the county actually listed in the Directory. Do you know of situations like this in your area?

A short note from NC2O tells us that Ken has been very busy the last several months running the local MARS station in order to provide phone patches for our military folks in the Gulf conflict. Thanks Ken to you and all the others that have taken time to do this kind of activity. Ken also reports that he and Ruth will be summing in Colorado with their kids. All counties to be put out in Colorado Ken?

The P.O. strikes again. WAØYFO reports that one of his certificates was never received. If this happens to you, let me know so it can be replaced.

K4CCW and K4BZV are on the way back to the summer QTH in Tennessee as of this writing. Be sure and keep me advised of all address changes because I use the real time database for addressing envelopes for all awards.

I missed seeing Mel, W5AWT at the MARAC Mini convention at Texoma. Had a nice letter from him this week. Mel noted that he and Geneva didn't feel up to it but they are hoping they can get to the National in July.

KB3GN suggests a good attitude for County Hunters would be "Do the best you can, for whoever you can, whenever you can." George is looking forward to getting the Last County award Category 3 at the 100 level. He is only waiting for a few souls that promised "The paper work is in the mail" to follow through on their commitment. He hopes to pick up some more AND reach the transmit 1500 counties level while on the way to the Michigan mini.

It's been nice to hear WØULU back on the air again. Fred was almost a neighbor of mine when I lived in Minnesota but about ten years ago he got bit by the DX bug and gave up

county hunting for a while. Welcome back Fred.

KB7QO and K5CKQ both called this week to complain that they hadn't received the sequence numbers of Last County awards (seals) that fell between some Last County Certificates they had received. I really do know what I am doing most of the time. I did not send out the seals the past several weeks cause I ran out of the seals. So a lot of certificates have been sent in the past month but very few seals. At present I am getting ready to do a mass mailing of about 500 stubs and seals. So hold tight folks, they will get to you eventually.

I got asked again this week (FOR THE THIRD TIME) if I had received the Money Order and several Last County award application that supposedly were sent last December. Folks, I do not hold any award applications that long. If you sent an application and I don't have it, I do not need to be asked repeatedly if I have it or not. Being asked that many times seems to insinuate that I am doing something with them other than processing them. Not true. If I don't have it, please look elsewhere or resubmit your award application. For those of you that use money orders, here is where it makes it almost impossible to trace. A check is easier to trace if you have access to a checking account.

### WRAP UP

The 20 CW Net has moved to 14056.5. If you are looking for the 20 Meter CW net, be sure to tune to the new frequency.

The same address used for awards is to be used for The B&B Shop also. I gave up. Had so many folks sending awards to the B&B Shop and so many orders for B&B coming to the home address I think I will just make it easier on everyone and use the same address for all.

Just as a final note, Loretta sends a special "Thank You" to all who sent cards while she was in the hospital having her knee replaced. Loretta is at home recovering now. The Dr. is very optimistic that she will regain full use of the knee and be able to resume the church organ playing that she has done all of her life. It is expected that she will be using a walker for about six weeks and then gradually getting away from that over the next four months or so. NO trips by car for four months so we will be stay-at-homes for a while.

And that's all for this month. Let me hear from you with your activity this month. I hope you had a good month.

73 cs Hamma Gooday,  
de Bill, W0OWY

## COUNTIES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

KD8GL Jay 304-232-6796

20 Meters

MI Leelanau Presque Isle

Bingo

MI Alger Marquette MI Broadwater Ravalli NE Sioux  
NY Clinton Herkimer SC Chesterfield VT Essex Orange  
WV Hampshire

## MOBILE INSTALLATION HINTS

BY W9SUQ

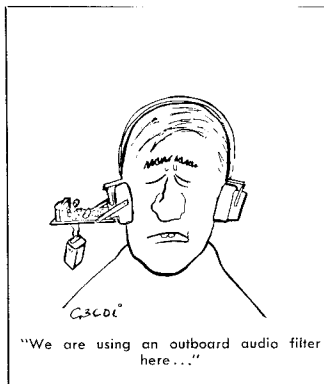
Recently bought a 91 Chevrolet Caprice Classic and wanted to install the HF rig for county hunting. I did not want to drill holes in it to mount antennas, so I had a trailer hitch installed. I ordered and installed a Tenna Hitch, and mounted a Hustler mobile antenna on it.

The next problem was how to run the coax to the antenna. I mounted a SO 239 in the rear of the trunk floor pointing out, so I could put a short piece of coax on the antenna and attach the PL 259 on the end to the SO 239. When the antenna is not mounted, I screw an old PL 259 to the SO 239 to keep it clean.

I use one of the 3-resonator mounts on the Hustler mast so wind is a problem. I did not have anything handy to tie guy's to. The solution to this problem came from the junk box. I found two old 2 meter mag mount antennas and removed the old coax and antennas and ran a bolt through the hole in the magnet and put a wire hook on top. These magnets were placed on top of the car and used to tie the guy lines to. The system worked very well with no damage to the finish of the vehicle.

### COUNTY HUNTER ACTIVITIES

May 4-5, 1991 MARAC CW 1991 CW Test  
N6QA 619-278-3260  
July 10-14, 1991 St. Paul, MN MARAC Nat'l.  
WA0LKL 612-888-3822  
Aug. 16-17, 1991 Marysville, WA Marysville Mini  
WA7ETH 206-653-6739  
Sept. 20-21, 1991 Mt. Horeb, WI N. Central Mini  
K9DCJ 608-795-2672  
Nov. 7-9, 1991 Murfreesboro, TN Southeast Mini  
KM4W 615-728-7379  
Mar. 6-7, 1992 L. Texoma, OK S Central Mini  
W5EJGS 903-463-3231  
Apr. , 1992 MARAC SSB 1991 SSB Test  
WA5DTK 407-777-3815  
May , 1992 MARAC CW 1991 CW Test  
N6QA 619-278-3260  
July 8-11, 1992 Hampton, VA MARAC Nat'l.  
N4ANV 919-425-8003  
Sept. , 1992 Oshkosh, WI N Central Mini  
K9DAF 414-725-7374



## ADDRESS CHANGES, ETC.

R357 W7GHT 1911 Powers Ave Lew-  
iston ID 83501  
R769 W6NAT 28990 Stafford Rd Cald-  
well ID 83605  
R1045 W4ZMZ P O Box 818 North  
SC 29112 (Orangeburg)  
R1611 W4RKV 429 Sassafra Cir Mun-  
ford TN 38058-9527  
R303 300 Manresa Way OR P O Box  
128 Los Altos CA 94023-0128 See  
Members Speak!  
HELP!! KG1Z P O Box 30882 JFK  
Station MAIL IS RETURNED UN-  
KNOWN!  
R105 W5HDK New Zipcode 75067-  
7394  
R545 W1FAB New Zipcode 01013-  
1839  
R938 WA6KHK P O Box 1245 Moreno  
Valley CA 92337 (Riverside)  
R1154 W7KQZ New Zipcode 89801-  
0886  
R1156 WA5DTK 1542 Keaton Lane  
Colorado Springs CO 80909-2731 (El  
Paso)  
R1330 K4BZV Rt 1 Box 80 Bumpus  
Mills TN 37028 (Stewart)  
R1613 KB3GN 10 Spring Blossom  
Lane Gerrardstown WV 25420 (Berke-  
ley)  
R1784 WA8BKF New Zipcode 48224-  
1528  
R1906 N5AWE RR 5 Box 15064 Don-  
na TX 78537 (Hildago)  
R2016 KS3I 150 Gaydos Lane Sewic-  
kley PA 15143-0150 (Allegheny)  
R2188 K16YX 4316 Westlawn Ave Los  
Angeles CA 90066 (LA)  
R2264 WV2B RD 1 Box 46B Lisle NY  
13797 (Broome)R2347 WB8RFN P O  
Box 347 Birmingham MI 48012-0347  
(Oakland)

## NEW MEMBERS

R2363 KB6LDY Carl Hacker 2425  
Augusta Dr No 38 Houston TX 77057  
(Harris)  
R2364 KB2LJU Kevin Welch 53 Heath  
St Buffalo NY 14214 (Erie)  
R2365 I2YWR Valle Valentino Via  
Liberta 246, 27027 Gropello Cairili  
Pavia Italy  
R2366 KF0OV Dan Copeland 405

South Chicago Bolivar MO 65613  
(Polk)  
R2367 WN9C Vance Nelson 726 Mer-  
rimac St Cary IL 60013 (McHenry)  
R2368 WA9OUE Dick Foster 5 South,  
563 Columbia St Naperville IL 60563  
(Dupage)  
R2369 N0IKX Romund Madson 2188  
N Oxford St Roseville MN 55113  
(Ramsey)  
R2370 KC4TBS Pat Tyree 5222 N  
Sumac Circle Fayetteville NC 28304  
(Cumberland)  
R2371 HB9RG Hans Rudy Lauber  
Oberi Chaseren 200, CH-8816 Hirzel  
Switzerland  
R2372 KA0CSI Dave Prelop 2404 20th  
Ave North Fort Dodge IA 50501 (Web-  
ster)

## USA-CA SPECIAL HONOR ROLL

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

OE2EGL #703 All SSB #1 to OE 4-1-  
91

NV6L #704 Mixed 4-6-91

NA5F #705 Mixed 4-6-91

KF4FP #706 All Mobile 4-13-91

## COUNTIES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

WB9STT 708-627-5028 Last for 2nd  
Time

AL Geneva KS Grays MN Rice  
NM Union PA Adams TN Morgan  
UT Piute WI Adams Lincoln + 1  
GA Franklin Stephens

WB9STT Bingo 2 or Last County

CA Monterey CO Phillips GA  
Lumpkin Union IN Jefferson Swit-  
zerland KS Gray KY Fulton MI  
Iron Menominee MS Webster

N0DRX Shel SSB Mobiles No Special  
Trips 612-439-1272

AR Woodruff IL Cass Marshall  
Stark IA Appanoose Boone Buchan-  
an Grundy Hancock Henry Howard  
Madison Monroe Shelby Winnebago  
Winnesiek KS Clay Hamilton Jew-  
ells Kearney MI Luce MS Humph-  
reys Marion Tate

WA8RSQ Eddie, 304-752-3647 To  
Finish States, 2nd Time

CO Gunnison Huerfano HI Kalawao  
MN Houston Itasca MO Chariton  
Linn MT Big Horn Liberty Powell  
NE Antelope Morrill NC Graham  
Rockingham OR Columbia Multno-  
mah WV Lincoln Logan Boone WI  
Florence Forrest

## MARAC FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking Acc't 3-1-91	\$ 1,573.91
Income	2,558.25
Expenses	2,411.90
Checking Acc't 3-31-91	\$ 1,720.26

Savings Acc't 3-1-91	\$13,510.16
Quarterly Interest	208.64
Savings Acc't 3-31-91	\$13,718.80

## MINUTES OF MARAC APRIL MEETING

The April MARAC meeting  
was held on April 13, 1991, at the  
Holiday Inn East, St. Paul, MN. Presi-  
dent Don, WA0LKL, called the break-  
fast meeting to order at 9:00 AM.  
Also in attendance were W0ULU, W0-  
NNH, WA0RJ, W9LHG, N0AKC,  
W0FCO, KW0U, and W0KMH.

The Secretary reviewed the  
minutes of the March meeting.  
W0NNH made a motion to accept the  
minutes, seconded by W0FCO, passed.  
John, W9LHG, presented the Treasur-  
er's report. He pointed out that the  
figures presented are essentially those  
of the end of the Fiscal Year, which  
ends at the end of March. WA0RJ  
made a motion to accept the Treasurer's  
report as presented, seconded by W0U-

LU, passed.

John, W9LHG asked for some discussion concerning the checking account that is to be established by the Awards Custodian. Following discussion, it was recommended that the Awards Custodian checking account:

- Have a MARAC title.
- Use two signatures, that of the Award Custodian and the Treasurer.
- The Awards Custodian submit a monthly report to the Treasurer of account transactions. - Expenses would continue to be paid by the Treasurer.

Vern, WA0RJ, provided the following items of information:

- The current active membership of MARAC continues its steady climb to an all time high of 916 members.
- The application for affiliation of MARAC with the ARRL has been completed. Once that affiliation has been confirmed, the application for the ARRL-related liability insurance will be requested.

- The results of the membership balloting for the three amendments to MARAC's Constitution and ByLaws were as follows:

- 1) Allow Newsletter members (SWLs and non-hams) to participate with Regular members in MARAC Family Memberships. Yes - 233. No - 18. Passed.
- 2) Add the position of Legal Council to MARAC's Appointed Officials. Yes - 242. No - 12. Passed.
- 3) Increase Dues - Third Class Newsletter from \$10 to \$13/year. First Class Newsletter from \$13 to \$16/year. Non-North American DX - \$25/year - No change. [Yes - 221. No - 34. Passed.

It was pointed out that a 2/3 majority of ballots received is required for an amendment to pass. Moreover, the three amendments will be effective on May 1, 1991.

The Awards Custodian, via President Don, asked for discussion concerning the optional removal of QSL confirmation requirements for MARAC awards. The proposal states that QSL confirmation would not be required, but that an appropriate statement would be added to an award if the person elects to verify the required contacts. From a straw vote of those present, 7 were in

favor of the proposal, with 2 against. It was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Awards Custodian to prepare a ballot for the Roadrunner to have the membership, by simple majority, determine whether the proposal should be adopted.

Don, WA0LKL, President and the Saint Paul National Convention Coordinator (What a title) reported that 75 hotel rooms had been booked, 11 registrations had been received, and that additional convention packets were available from him.

With no additional business, N0AKC made a motion to adjourn, seconded by W0FCO, passed. The next regular meetings will be held on May 11 and June 8, 1991 at 9:00 AM at the Holiday Inn East in St. Paul, MN.

Respectfully submitted, Vern Olson, WA0RJ, Secretary.

## FROM THE SECRETARY

If your mailing label indicates 9105 or 9106, it is time to renew. Dues with 1st class mailing of the Newsletter are \$16/year, 3rd class mailings are \$13/year. (Note, 3rd class mailing available within the U.S. only.) Dues with the Newsletter mailed Air Mail to all continents other than North America are \$25. 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, WA0RJ, 4024 NW 3rd St, Rochester, MN 55901.

## MARAC INFORMATION PACKET

Get the word out to potential new members and interested County Hunters that a County Hunting Information Packet is available. The Packet includes information about MARAC, QSLing, Net Operation, County Hunting supplies, etc. Send the request with a business-size envelope with 1 ounce postage to:

MARAC BOX 64 NEWPORT MN 55055

Europeans can get the Information Packet from Eddie, G4KHG.

## COUNTIES NEEDED TO FINISH USA-CA

KJ4LG Hank 904-596-5071 COLLECT

GA Ben Hill Clinch Oglethorpe  
Terrell Treutlen Wheeler ID Lewis  
KS Jewell MS Leake NC Vance  
ND McIntosh Sheridan

## PLANNED MOBILE TRIP

W0LRH will run the Northeast quadrant o North Dakota on May 23 and 24. All counties within the area bounded by the border of MN at Pembina west to Renville then south to McLean then east to the MN border at Trail.

He will be on CW and SSB.

## WD9GMA ANNOUNCES THREE AWARDS

Award for working WD9-GMA/M in all of the 48 continental states. Basic Requirements:

- 1) 1 contact in all 48 states w plus #3.
- 2) 1 contact in Jefferson Co., WI.
- 3) 500 contacts in 25 states with a minimum of 5 contacts in each state, except Delaware, which only has 3 counties, Delaware will count for one state.
- 4) Starting date, Nov 11, 1981.
- 5) All contacts in chronological order.
- 6) Call, Date, Time, Band.
- 7) Award is a plaque of the U.S.

Award for working WD9-GMS/M in 25 states. Basic requirements:

- 1) 1 contact in Jefferson Co., WI.
- 2) 1 contact in nine other Jefferson counties in nine different states.
- 3) Work WD9GMA/M in 25 states and 500 counties with a minimum of 5 contacts in each state with the exception of Delaware, which only has 3 coun-

- ties. Delaware will count for one state.
- 4) If you worked WD9GMA/M in New Zealand it would count as one Jefferson county, except WI.
  - 5) If you worked WD9GMA in any one of the following VE Districts it would count for one Jefferson county contact; VE 1,2,3,4,5,6,7.
  - 6) Starting date Nov 11, 1981.
  - 7) All contacts in chronological order.
  - 8) Call, Date Time, Band.
  - 9) Award is a Plaque of the U.S.

DX Award for working WD9GMA/M. Basic requirements:

- 1) 1 contact in Jefferson Co., WI.
- 2) 250 contacts in 20 states with a minimum of 5 contacts in each state, Delaware with 3 counties would count for one state.
- 3) Starting date Nov. 11, 1981.
- 4) All contacts in chronological order.
- 5) Call, Date, Time, Band.
- 6) Award is a plaque of the U.S.

## MEMBERS SPEAK!

Al, N0LHN -- I would like to express my heart felt thanks to the County Hunters who helped me Sunday April 7, 1991. When my truck broke down on the Kansas Turnpike (I-35), I called for help and the net contacted the Kansas Highway Patrol. An hour and a half later the first police officer to travel this 34 mile stretch between exits arrived to summon a tow truck. Had it not been for the repeated phone calls from the county hunters, I might still be sitting in the scenic flint hills of Kansas. If anyone incurred any costs in this incident, please contact me so that I can reimburse you. I hope the next time I am on the net it is from the bottom of a large pileup; I will however know exactly what mile marker I passed last. 73 and good hunting.

K6HZI, Terry -- (How to get lost in the shuffle) For 15 years I've lived at 662 University Ave. Because some homes were built nearby, what WAS my long DRIVEWAY is now named Manresa Way, and my new address is 300 Manresa Way. The United States Postal Service cannot remember where 662 University is, even though it and I are

still here at the very same place we have always been! So, mail to that old address is returned to the sender. Now, I've got to petition the FCC to change my address even though I haven't moved, so that the Call Book will be given an address that the United States Postal Service will deliver to. I haven't moved, but I'm "no good in the Call Book". It will probably take a year to get straight. However, my Post Office Box 128 is another good address, but it has a different Zipcode than does 300 Manresa Way. Just use the Bureau!!

KA2CNG John -- You can never be too prepared when going mobile. Recently, while putting out a county my rig went dead with a blown fuse. The fuse that blew was in the power lead running directly to the car battery. As soon as I discovered this I got out a spare fuse (you should never travel without them) and replaced it. The new fuse did not blow but the line was still dead. This connection was made three years prior when I purchased the car and I had never had any trouble with it. The only thing to do was to return home 20 miles away.

Before I retired I used to go on business trips in rental cars. I made up a special cable with a battery clip to take power directly off the car battery. The cable is reinforced with plastic tubing near the other end where I just run in thru the door on the passenger side. I used a Ten-Tec stick antenna mounted on a magnetic mount. With this setup you can easily connect your rig to any rental car and be on the air in less than 5 minutes. Your signal with this setup may not be the best, but it was good enough for me to work Eddie in England with a 59 from PA and a mobile in the 1st district of Alaska with a 59 also from PA.

From now on when I travel I will carry this clip on power lead as a backup. If I had it with me I could have avoided the return home. I never did find out why the fuse blew in the first place, but I did find out why the replacement fuse did not work. The spring at the bottom of the in-line fuse was so compressed, the new fuse did not make good contact when installed. This could have been easily fixed with

a little closer examination.

W2PDM Stu -- A few months ago someone wrote in that they use the National Zipcode and Directory of Post Offices to determine the county of a ham, when that person's QSL card does not have the county on it. Also, the CQ Magazine rules refer to this Directory as the proper reference for proving what county you worked. At the time the Rules were first promulgated, it was believed that a Zipcode area would not include an area outside the county of the Post Office bearing the Zipcode in question. However, it turns out that many Zipcodes do indeed include parts of two or more counties. As an example, the Zipcode for Hickory NC--28601--covers part of Catawba and part of Alexander counties. Also, Mike Eilers, K800K, who works for the U.S. Postal Service, confirms that there are many Zipcodes throughout the country that cover more than one county. Using the Zipcode Directory for determining a station's county will destroy the integrity of the USACA award program.

It should be noted that the current Zipcode Directory shows no counties for Alaska, and since Judicial Districts are vague and in no way are they counties, the authorities should seriously reconsider requiring contacts in the Districts for the awards. I am sending copies of this to WB9RCY, NR4R and WOOWY.

N9CHU Ace -- (Open letter to David, NR2S) I suspect your letter about last county awards in the April Countyline Roadrunner was written with a little tongue in cheek.

After more than a decade of being involved with County Hunting, I have finally popped out a lot of the key words, phrases etc., involved within the system. Example: "I'll take care of the paper work" many times means: "I'll get my MRC in the mail today. You sign it on the day you receive it and get it headed back to me the following day." It doesn't mean the person receiving their last county at YOUR expense intends to spend the \$2 ordering an award for YOU.

In order to get above the 100 last county award lever I recently had to prepare 17 last county (Category 1) award applications and mail them with an SASE to the people I gave a last county to in order to obtain their signature on the application. When the signed application was received another 25c stamp plus \$2 check to MARAC was required to get the info to W0-OWY. A total of @.75 per last county I gave to someone else. This, of course, does NOT include as much as \$300 per month on gas and motel rooms in running the counties for the Net.

On my trip to Alaska in June 1990 my expenses were in excess of \$3000 and I gave out more than a dozen last counties. Now, ten months later, only 10% of the Award certificates have been received by me from those persons I gave the last counties to. I'll not again spend my money to apply for those last county awards. I have a list on my desk of the County Hunters involved. I also have a shoe box under my desk to hold the MRC from those operators who have not sent in the last county awards.

Yes David, there are many reasons why you're not getting those \$2 last county award. Do you realize that a simple TS 440S A/T is now over \$1500 and other rigs as much as \$5000 or more? Add to that a few more hundred for a tower and beam etc., and you can understand the crying and moaning of poverty when it comes to those people applying for a \$2 certificate.

Yep, it spite of all the problems I'll probably continue running counties. In the future my only change will be to ignore those who ignore me, especially those who brag about finishing them all for the 3rd or 4th time and who I have never heard pick up the net as New Control, Assistant Net Control, move a mobile off frequency or do anything else to help the net. Surely, they have never spent any money running a single county. You know --- those unidentified voices we all hear out there with the constant complaining about Net operations!

So David, don't get disgusted and quit chasing counties. The 90% great folks on the Net will always overshadow the usual 10% of turkeys involved in any operation.

#### BILL IN CONGRESS TO PROTECT AMATEUR FREQUENCIES

A new bill before the House of Representatives offers the amateur community a marvelous opportunity to prevent the FCC from reducing Amateur Radio spectrum allocations.

Tennessee Congressman Jim Cooper, with support of ARRL introduced the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991. If passed, the proposed legislation, designated H. R. 73, would ensure that "the FCC shall not diminish existing allocations of spectrum to the Amateur Radio Service after January 1, 1991. The FCC shall provide equivalent replacement spectrum to the Amateur Radio Service for any frequency reallocation after January 1, 1991.

Unless Congress hears from a lot of amateurs, H. R. 73 could die.

So send a simple note (letter or QSL) to your local Congressional Representative and urge him or her to go on record as a cosponsor of H. R. 73. If enough cosponsors get behind the bill, its chances of being passed in the House and sent on to the Senate will be greatly increased.

If you do not know your local representatives name and or address in Washington, contact your local library or newspaper.

Also, while you are at it, you might mention that the FCC is again considering the imposition of a fee starting Oct 1, 1991 of \$3/year for your license renewal or \$30.00!

#### NOISE REDUCTION

(Editors note: I found this while cleaning out Newsletter files of 10 years ago. Makes interesting reading. Bob)

A few notes on motor noise suppression of a particular car. We bought this Pontiac Ventura some months back and on a trip East, I almost wore the ignition key out switching off and on so I picked up a booklet at Louisville Convention and put it to use when I got back home. I had about 15 feet of 1 inch wide by 10-mil thick copper strip salvaged from a cable job before retirement on the railroad. I bonded both sides of the hood to the body also both sides of trunk lid, both across the hinges. The motor mounting blocks were bonded across. The neoprene mounting block at the rear of the transmission was bonded on both sides. The exhaust system was suspended by two neoprene hangers and both were strapped across. Both front and rear bumpers are the hydraulic floating type and each required three bonds from the bumper to the frame. The frame itself on this car it is in two pieces, acting like a cantilever so the frame can actually flex up and down a bit in the middle. Bonds were placed around the shock blocks where the rear ends of the front section are bolted to the back section. The ignition wires were strapped with wire but nothing placed over the plugs. Then a heavy duty hash choke was scrounged from the junk box, put in the battery lead right at the distributor and bypassed from the distributor side to ground by a 100mFd 50 volt condenser. The motor noise was down to about S-3 so on a hunch I lifted the ground from the wiring harness and lo and behold I have to run the RF gain wide open now to hear any motor noise. The battery wire condenser still goes to the wiring harness but neither is grounded to the car body or frame. Evidently enough distributed capacity there to bypass or cancel out any induced motor noise.

(Originally submitted, I think, by W5AWT. Bob, K0AYO)



# MARAC



## THE MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB, INC.

MARAC 1991 NATIONAL CONVENTION  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA JULY 10-13, 1991

WAØLKL CONVENOR  
WØLHG TREASURER  
WØNNH REGISTRATION  
WAØSGJ REGISTRATION  
WØKMH PRIZES

### CONVENTION UPDATE

The convention committee is pleased to announce that another major event has been added to the list of things to do during our convention. The annual Midwest Amateur Fair will be held at the Aldrich Arena on Saturday July 13, 1991. The arena is just minutes from the convention hotel. The format of the Amateur Fair is similar to the Dayton Hamfest with an indoor exhibit area for Amateur Radio dealers/exhibits and a large outdoor flea market.

Over 3,000 amateurs are expected to attend the Amateur Fair. You may wish to stop at the Fair on Saturday morning. The convention committee has left our Saturday morning agenda open to allow you to attend the Amateur Fair if you wish to do so. You may purchase tickets for the Amateur Fair only at the door on the day of the event. This event is not listed on the official MARAC convention form.

I would also like to clarify the date and time for the ladies shopping/historical tour of Stillwater, Minnesota. It will be held on Friday July 12, 1991. Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 9:00 A.M. for the ride to the tour. See last months Roadrunner for further details.

It would be helpful to our convention committee if all of those planning on coming to the convention would register soon for the events we have scheduled. Reservations have been made based on our forecasts, but it would be great if we could obtain a more accurate count so that we can increase or decrease the number of reservations as necessary. We want to make sure that everyone will be able to attend all the events they have chosen.

Here is an update of county hunters who have made hotel reservations or have officially registered for the convention:

KA1CLV, KA2CNG, W2CUK, WB2NFB, W2PDM, VE3BFJ, W3DYA, WB3HTK, VE3OEE, WA3TUC, KB3WN, KC3X, N4ANV, WB4CCT, W4IGW, WA4KER, AA4LB, K4QFK, N4UMR, KB4XK, KN4Y, KD4ZJ, WD5AAH, KF5AT, W5HDK, KG5J, K5OUK, K6HZI, WA6VJP, W6TKV, K7AYC, W7NXZ, KB7QO, N8BGF, N8CIJ, N8HAM, K8MDU, WB8WXE, WG9A, W9ABM, K9DAF, K9DCJ, K9DZG, K9ETB, WU9F, WD9HDR, WB9JSW, W9LHG, WB9NUL, WA9PQY, NV9S, NT9V, W9ZD, NØAKC, KØAYO, NØCOL, NØDRX, KYØE, WØFCO, KAØHJR, WBØJYB, WØKMH, WØKZZ, WAØLKL, WAØLMK, KFØLZ, WØNNH, WØOWY, KØVPP, WAØYFQ. Hope to see your call on this list next month!

73, Don, WAØLKL, Convener

