

COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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(913-585-3212)

A Publication of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.
SSB Net 14.336 CW Net 14.056.5

No. 257

Oct. 1, 1991

Net Operating Tips

By Mitch, W4RKV

When working a mobile and you have additional info to pass along to him, his signal report should be the last part of your transmission, i.e. following the other info, so he won't forget his report and have to ask for a repeat before he can acknowledge it. Example: "Roger the 5-9, Ed. Aunt Bea sends her love and Uncle Ed's gout is better. Al got a bike for his birthday. You're 5-7". If you give him his 5-7 first, followed by all that other info, he will probably have to ask for a repeat of the report.

When helping with relays, we should only give the call of the relayed station and abstain from giving any hints on the signal report. A comment like "No, it's not a 3-3, he's giving you a better report than that" seems to me to taint the contact with a definite odor. Some people question the validity of ANY contacts using relays; while you and I may not agree with that position I think we should be careful about giving any clues about the report.

Name that C.H.'er

By Duane, WV2B

Can you imagine working all counties five times? That is what this month's County Hunter is in the process of doing right now.

He has been hunting counties for the past 22 years and shows no signs of slowing down. As with many others, he got started by hearing the net activity and getting interested.

His interest in radio was first sparked in 1928 when

he began building his own radio sets. His secular career was as a professional engineer for Bell Canada.

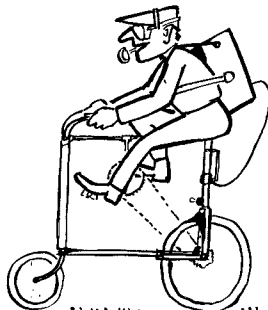
He is a widower and enjoys very much his other hobbies of wood carving and gardening. He is also very active in church functions.

What kind of a station does it require to work all counties four times? Well, this County Hunter's station is comprised of a Kenwood TS-430S and a dipole antenna. He has obviously relied on something other than brute radio strength to acquire his bevy of awards including the Master County Hunter's award, 50 states with KB7QO, 1500 counties with KB7QO, 500 counties with N9DEH for the Big Rig award, and the obvious precursors to the fourth time award.

He continues to stick with the net because of the friendships that are formed, and because of the continuing challenge of working the counties.

Do you recognize this County Hunter? If not, see next month's article for his identity. Sorry, no photo was available this month.

Featured last month was Darrel R. Craig Jr., KK6BB.



... and the antenna here is a single element quad, gamma matched ..."

A New Awards Program For The Serious County Hunter

Bob Margolin, K1BM

The underlying concept of this proposed award program will probably offend many county hunters but the fact is that county hunting as currently practiced is not much of a challenge. I say this even though it took me 18 years to nail down USA-CA 715. The truth, however, is that my county hunting was an on-again, off-again proposition. Those who have monitored 14.336 MHz for the past 10 years will agree that except for my mobile expeditions, my call was seldom heard on the net. And according to several active county hunters, USA-CA has been achieved several times in less than a year -- I understand the record is six months and 10 days, start to finish. Lets face it, folks, all it takes is persistence. Basically, the key to USA-CA is turning on the rig, tuning it to 14.336 MHz and waiting for the counties to drop by. When it gets down to a dozen or so, maybe a few telephone calls are needed to arrange contacts, but even then those contacts are likely to be on 14.336. That's why I'm proposing a new county hunting award program that requires at least a little effort on the part of county hunters.

Following are the key provisions of the new awards. Since I still have to work for a living, and since I will not make any money on the awards, I don't want to waste my time designing certificates and setting up processing procedures unless the county hunting community is genuinely interested in the program. So, please read the following and let me know if you are interested in participating. If, and only if, there is enough interest, I'll go forward with the program. Send your comments (a postal card will do) to me at P.O. Box 2499, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624.

Worked All Counties The Hard Way

1. Engage in two-way contacts with licensed amateur radio stations in each of the counties and judicial districts of the United States. Each station may be worked one time only. Thus, if a station is worked mobile or portable in one county, that station may not be worked again in any other county, including the home county. You can use county hunter or any other net contacts, but remember one county per station. This means that you must carefully chose which county to claim for each mobile station you work because once you claim a contact, you cannot every again claim other contacts with that station.
2. You must include contacts on each of any five authorized amateur bands each time you apply. A minimum of 10 contacts are required for each band. For example, 460 contacts on 20

meters and 10 each on 160, 75, 10 and 6 meters are acceptable as would be 100 on each of the five bands. At least two modes of transmission must be included each time you apply. A minimum of 25 percent of the claimed contacts must be made on the other mode or modes. All authorized modes are acceptable and the 25 percent other-mode-minimum can be satisfied with any combination of modes. For example, 375 single sideband contacts and 125 CW or 75 CW, 25 RTTY, 15 facsimile, 1 ATV and 9 slow scan contacts would be acceptable. The only requirement is that all be direct contacts made without the use of repeaters or digipeaters. However, satellite and earth-moon--earth contacts will be accepted.

3. At least 1000 counties must be claimed for the initial application, but the initial application can be for any greater number. Your certificate will indicate the number of counties worked. Each subsequent application (except the last to finish up) must include at least 500 additional counties, but these too may contain any greater number of counties. Each application will yield a new certificate showing the new total of counties worked (I don't have the time or money to get involved in seals and ribbons).

4. A unique serial number will be issued for each certificate, but since the actual number of counties claimed on each application will vary, separate lists of numbers for each level of achievement will not be kept. However, a separate list of numbers will be kept for the final worked all counties certificate.

5. Confirmations are not required, but the certificate wording will indicate whether or not confirmations exist. Certificates for those applying without conformations will contain the phrase "...has claimed contacts with amateur radio stations in XXX counties..." Certificates for those applying with conformations will contain the phrase "...has confirmed contacts with amateur radio stations in XXX counties..."

6. Since it will probably take a while for all 3076 counties to be worked under these rules, a box score that lists the number of counties claimed or confirmed by the top county hunters will appear in the **Road Runner** at least once every three months.

Bingo The Hard Way

1. Engage in two-way contacts with licensed amateur radio stations in each of the counties and judicial districts of the United States. The first letter of each station's suffix must be the first letter of the county claimed. If the county name consists of two words, the first two letters of the suffix must be the first letter of each of the two words in the same sequence. For example, N6SDB is acceptable for San Diego county, but N6BSD is not acceptable. The same sequential rule applies to counties with three-word names. For example, W6SLO is acceptable for San Luis Obispo county, but W6LOS is not. For Alaska, the suffix must follow the district but the call sign's

number may be used. For example, both KL7FJD and N1JDQ are acceptable for the First Judicial District. For the few counties with four-word names, the suffix must match the first three words of the county name. For example, KA0LOT is acceptable for Lake Of The Woods county, but KA00TW is not.

2. The letter "X" may be used as a wildcard PROVIDED the sequence rules stated in Rule 1 are followed. For example, KB5EXR is acceptable for East Baton Rouge, but W5ERX is not.

There are no other wildcards allowed. Contacts with a station having a USA-CA number cannot be substituted for the required suffix sequence.

3. Most of the rules for the Worked All Counties the Hard Way Award apply for this award as well. However, the multi-band and multi-mode requirements of that award do not apply for this award.

The fee for these awards has not yet been determined, but it will be the minimum required to cover my costs. Since each certificate will be printed "to order" on my laser printer, the majority of the cost will be postage and envelopes. Most likely it will be in the \$1 to \$1.25 range.

Well folks, there you have the basics of my proposed awards program. Yes, it will be much harder to finish up the new awards than it is for the current awards, but that's why they're called "...The Hard Way." Even if you're not interested in participating yourself, I think you'll agree that working them all this way is a real achievement in which one can take great pride.

Wanted

Wanted--QSO's with the following USA-CA holders!! I monitor the 14.336 net most evenings, 2300-0300.

I2PHN K0GSV K0OGJ K1BM K1VSJ K3LK K4JFI
K5MOF K5UTH K5XY K6RLR K6SLP K7EQ K7IOO
K8BXT K8GPC K8KIR K8MDU K8OHC K9BX K9DAF
K9ETB K9KKX K9ZWH N0AKC N0CKC N0CYB
N1GMU N2CWG N5DGQ N5KGY N6ERM N6QA
N7AKG N8BGF N8CVP N8GEQ N8HAM N9BDM N9TN

Next month, W's, AB's, AD's, AG's. I have heard some of you work an occasional mobile but have been unable to get to you between "runs". Let N/C know you are looking for me and we can go off freq. I'm trying to "catch up" with the USACA folks. So, if your call is not on this list and we

haven't worked each other since you got your number, grab me and we'll exchange numbers. I'm #106. Thanks. Bob, KOAYO.

From The Secretary

If your mailing label indicates 9111 or 9112, it is time to renew. Dues with 1st class mailing of the Newsletter are \$16/yr. Dues with 3rd class mailing of the Newsletter are \$13/yr. Note that 3rd class mailing is available within the US only. Dues with the Newsletter mailed Air Mail to all continents other than North America are \$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, Shel Mann, N0DRX 1618 Pine St, Stillwater, MN 55082.

MARAC INFORMATION 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, QSLing, Net Operation, County Hunting supplies, etc. Send the request with a business-size envelope with 29 cents postage to:

MARAC Box 64 Newport, MN 55055.

Europeans can get the Information Packet from Eddie, G4KHG.

The B & B Shop Is Still Printing

In the September For CW Ops column I (W0HKF) said that I overheard at the Board meeting that Bill, W0OWY, is so busy with the Awards program that he has had to give up printing. Bill wants everybody to know this is absolutely untrue and that he is in no way cutting back on his printing activities at the B & B Shop, Inc. I did not check back with Board members before submitting the statement for print and it can most likely be attributed to my careless listening. Sorry, Bill! ...W0HKF.

Dateline CW

By Ed, KN4Y

"The use of traveling is to regulate imagination by reality"

What a county hunter convention we had in St. Paul, MN. They came from afar and wide and some were. By car, van, truck, motor home and motorcycle. They turned off McKnight Road into the parking lot of the Convention Motel, and ran to the hospitality room. Meeting those at the other end of a CW signal is always excitement at its best. Ever notice the person is always different from the mental image concocted from their CW signal, even those you met at the last convention seemed more mature. I pray everyone had a safe trip home. The only problem we had was that our GMC van's cooling system was not designed for highway speeds in 95 degree ambient temperatures, but when it got dark she made up for lost time. HI.

But the big news was on the road. Eighty five and one half year young, Al, W0AWP on July 7 needed 25 counties in 6 states and in July 15 finished the whole ball of wax when he got Russell county KY, from W3DYA/M. No way you snicker, but never underestimate CW County Hunters.

This unbelievable event was made possible by the combined travels of KA1CLV/M (last MI), KN4Y/M (last TN), KG5J/M (layout SD), WA6VJP (last 5 in ND), NG0T/M last SD & NE) and of course W3DYA/M who gave out the remaining five counties in KY. Good thing for Al that Norm did not know that the usual direction from Minnesota to Texas is West (HI). From Al's letter I quote: "I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks."

Back to the convention. The CW county hunters forum was hosted by Bob, W0HKF and as usual was very exciting. Bob brought a huge "Fanny Keyer" which you have to see to believe. Sending CW with your butt is not easy, but then a pile driver is not designed for speed. The time went fast and soon it was time to leave. Be sure to read the convention report for more happenings. By the way, non stop from St. Paul to Tallahassee takes 25 hours.

The only function missing at the convention was a CW county hunter of the year award. There is a CW mobile and NCS award, there are separate endorsements for CW for all awards including USACA, there is a separate picture taken at the convention of the CW operators, there is a separate CW net, there is a MARAC CW contest, and a special CW forum at the convention. There are three kinds of county hunters, sidebender, CW and those who would like to operate CW. Now is the time that the MARAC Board of Directors consider a CW county hunter of the year and a SSB county hunter of the year. If you CW operators out there in reader land agree, write to one of the MARAC Board of Directors listed in the

newsletter and request this change. If enough of us CW operators think this is a reasonable request the board members will be impressed. So sit down right now and write a letter requesting the board consider having two county hunter of the year awards.

And, a special thanks to those county hunters who took the time to be NCS for the mobiles enroute to the convention. You were invaluable especially when the band died Tuesday. Remember, an armadillo is nothing more than an opossum in a half-shell.

Is betting the USACA a big event? Charlie, WA4MC is a calm, cool, easy going and not easy to excite type of county hunter, one of us southern gentlemen type. A few months ago Charlie called me on the local two meter repeater and stammered excitedly at 500 wpm something about a 717. I thought he had bought an airplane. Finally, he calmed down enough for me to understand he had just gotten his USACA number, 717. Yes, it is a big event would be a good reply, if asked.

Gene, W1TEE ran all the counties in Hawaii and thereby doing them all, the first time ever on CW. Gene is going to give us the logistics of the island trip, so mark your calendar for the December roadrunner. Congratulations, Gene, from all county hunters.

A thought came to me. The highest possible stage in moral culture is when we recognize that we ought to control our thoughts. But since I am not yet at the stage, here it is. A challenge for a mathematical wizard. There needs to be a formula that factors in mileage and county size for a contest that involves counties and mobiles. Why? Well for example, during a contest, two mobiles each run 500 miles, one mobile is in KY the other in WY. The KY mobile is able to run 20 counties the WY mobile only 5 counties. Let us assume there are 25 fixed stations working the mobiles. Both mobile travel the same distance, but the KY mobile has 500 contacts and the WY mobile 125. The difference is the size of the counties. This statistically eliminates first place for a mobile in many of the western states before the contest even starts. There must be a mathematical genius county hunter who can develop a formula for each state, thereby making all mobiles equal. Whoever does this will have their name written into contest history. Anyone want to be famous?

In my last article I asked what county to list for a Category 1 award when the last two counties were run on the county line. Sure enough it happened, Tom, W0LRH gave me Pembina/Walsh for my last county in ND. Editor Bob suggested the last county is the county on which the front wheels were located. However, in this case the mobile was parked parallel with the county line so a different method would be required. (Editors re-note: That was based on the idea that he/she was in the next to last then pulled up to the line. Who would have guessed (Besides MURPHY) that he/she would not

be into either first!!!!). To solve this dilemma I decided to use the feline factor. I did not feed my 20 pound cat Tiger for two hours. I then put two bowls of food out spaced five feet apart, one marked Pembina the other Walsh and turned Tiger loose. Tiger ran to the center of the two bowls and sat down. Darn. I have a bureaucratic cat, he won't make a decision, so I resorted to the American way and flipped a coin.

Epilogue - I worked AI, WOAWP, USACA # 725.

Address Changes, New Calls Corrections

R2380 N7JPF 508 3rd Ave Aberdeen WA 98520-1818
R2113 WN7J 6927 West Wagoner Rd Glendale AZ 85308
R2336 N7MPS 22139 Eel Lane Middleton ID 83644 (Canyon)
R869 4201 Pennlyn Ave Apt 2 Kettering OH 45429 (Montgomery)
R623 WB5LOZ 2420 Fairburn Rd Apt 15 Douglasville GA 30135 (Douglas)
R1707 WA4KER New Zip Code 33707-2041
R2118 WAS KA1RIF NOW KD1BP
R799 W0UM 1312 5th Ave NW Austin MN 55912
R1273 KQ3S 8 Preakness Way Marstons Mills MA 02648 (Barnstable)
R1298 WB7VIZ 2105 Demerse Ave Prescott AZ 86303 (Yavapai)
R1463 WB7QID 204 County Road Evanston WY 82930 (Unita)
R2063 WW0G Rt 1 Box 594 Marble Hill 63764-9701 (Bollinger)

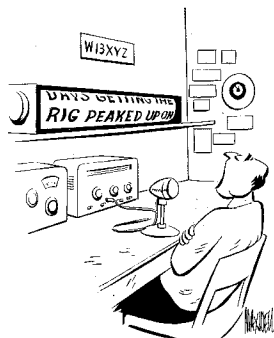
New Members

R2396 KA9PZS Jim Paulick Box 154 Mentor MN 56736 (Polk)
R2397 WD9HSE Bob Nelson 25 Browns Rd Alpine CA 91901 (San Diego)
R2398 KA0CYB Dennis Johnson P O Box 75392 St Paul MN 55175-0392 (Washington)
R2399 N5N9F Diane Landreth 4504 Arlen Dr Plano TX 75093 (Collin)
R2400 WB8FBJ Jerry Bailey 117 Vale St Battle Creek MI 49017 (Calhoun)
R2401 N4QCJ Sharon Marshall 520 S. Woodbury Ave Danville VA 24540
R2402 AA7EQ Robert Baxter 976 Orchard Ave Ogden UT 84404 (Weber)
R2403 KC0IA William Lang 10405 W. 52nd St Shawnee KS 66203 (Johnson)
R2404 N3IUT Ernest "Bud" Turner 869 Parkridge Dr Wallingford PA 19086 (Delaware)
R2405 NZ2D Russell "TJ" Tjepkema 4436 Leatherwood Dr

Virginia Beach VA 232462 (Isle of Wight)
R2406 N7MZW Charles Williams 1768 Meadowland Dr Cheyenne WY 82009 (Laramie)
R2407 W81QF John Dumez 925 South Shore Dr Holland MI 49423 (Ottawa)
R2408 K8NI A. N. "Norm" Into 14620 Russell Lane Novelty OH 44072 (Cuyahoga)
R2409 N2KBC Robert Chamberlain 3 Darian Dr Pomona NY 10970 (Rockland)
R2410 WC90 Robert Berger 367 Lois St Rhinelander WI 54501 (Oneida)
R2411 NS9Q Mary Berger 367 Lois St Rhilelander WI 54501 (Oneida)
R2412 N0NTV Duane Titus P O Box 2183 H S T Station Independence MO64055 (Jackson)
R2413 W4KZT Margaret Vining 414 Buchanan Ave Orlando FL 32809 (Orange)
R2414 N0CPW Neil Bruce RR #2 Box 79 Pattonsburg MO 64670 (Davies)
R2415 Bruce Allinott 4974 Maitland St Port Alberni B C Canada V9Y 3W3
R2416 KC4SIT Eric Hollingsworth 112 Felmet Flat Rock NC 28731 (Henderson)
R2417 VK5AQZ Graham Harlin-Smith 2 Athol Ave Tramere So. Australia Australia
R2418 WN3W John Chickness 1507 Wimpole St Aliquippa PA 15001 (Beaver)
R2419 K04DN Chris Pamdolfi Rt 35 Box 5644 Tallahassee FL 32310 (Leon)
R2420 K2DB Paul Mackanos Jr 86 Close Hollow Dr Hamlin NY 14464
R2421 AA4KD Clair Allen FBIS/American Embassy APO AE 09830
R2422 KD4BRO Ed Hexter 3041 SW 117 Ave Davie FL 33330 (Broward)

Silent Keys

It is with sorrow that we have to report the recent deaths of two of our members. W1SXX, Jim, R 704, USACA 380, his son is KB7BO; and WB4VBL, Roy, R2042, formerly DA1DD, and WA2CRB.



"... days getting the rig peaked up on ..."

G4KHB Is Looking For A State Side
QSL Manager. If Interested, Drop Him A Line.

Lackawanna VT Rutland VA Grayson Loudon

Counties Needed To Complete USA-CA

Minutes Of The MARAC September Meeting

NWOF Bob

AR Pike Jefferson IA Monroe Appanoose TX Hale
Borden Hansford

(AGAIN, someone sent correspondence without putting name
and call inside envelope. When mail arrives I open and discard
envelopes, then sort. Editor)

Last counties for whole ball of wax.

AR Lec Logan Owachita White HI Hawaii Maui KS Rice
KY Elliott Hancock OH Coshocton Highland Monroe

WV2B Duane 607-349-6516 20M SSB Mobile

ND Benson McKenzie TN Johnson Scott VT Essex
Orleans VA Arlington Richmond

VE1AIT Lin 506-458-8854 COLLECT

CO Teller IL Morgan KS Pratt NE Johnson NY
Wyoming ND Dunn TX Caldwell Childress Collingsworth
Floyd Gonzales Hays Irion McMullen

KC4SF Jim 804-352-2229 (h) 804-846-5292 (W)

GA Murray ID Valley NY Hamilton NC Montgomery PA
Lancaster Snyder VA Surry

USA-CA Special Honor Roll

Our congratulations go to the following County Hunters
who have earned a place on the USA-CA Special Honor Roll,
sponsored by CQ Magazine.

W4HSA #727 8-23-91 VE1GU #728 9-3-91

Counties For Special Needs

WB2HXZ Bob 914-471-6615 BINGO

NE Dixon Howard Thurston NH Merrimac PA Blair

The meeting was held on Sept 7, 1991 at the Holiday
Inn East, St. Paul, MN. President Don, WAOLKL, called the
meeting to order at 9 AM. Also in attendance were WOKHM,
W9LHG, WAORJJ, KW0U, N0DXH, and N0DRX.

WOKMH moved that the Secretary's report be accepted,
second by N0DXH, motion carried.

W0FCO moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted,
second by WAORJJ, motion carried.

Vern, WAORJJ, reported for the Capital Equipment
Improvement Committee, that a computer package has been
purchased for \$1,937.53. The package includes a used 1 1/2
year old IBM PS/2 Model 55 SX 031 computer, 30 MHz hard
drive, and 3.5 inch diskette drive. As this machine did not have
a 5 1/4 inch disk drive, a new one and associated hardware have
been ordered and are included in the above cost. If purchased
new, the hardware in this package would cost about \$4,300
today.

N0DRX presented a report on postage meters.
WAORJJ moved that N0DRX proceed and obtain a postage
meter for the Awards Custodian, second by W9LHG, motion
carried.

WAOLKL conducted an "open mailbag" session where
letters intended to be, are discussed. There are some good ideas
in there that will likely be considered and appear in some form
in future Secretary's minutes.

From the "open mailbag", N0DR X moved to accept a
proposal to hold the 1993 National MARAC convention in
Seattle, WA., second by N0DRX, motion carried.

The Secretary reported that we have received
notification from the ARRL that our application for club
affiliation has been approved. This allows MARAC to be
eligible to apply for club liability insurance through the ARRL
program. N0DRX will be taking care of the paperwork.

Motion to adjourn was made by W9LHG, second by
N0DXH, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Shel Mann, N0DRX, Secretary

Ballot Results

MARAC Financial Report

Checking Acc't as of 7-1-91	\$ 239.50
Income	7,806.61
Expenses	4,961.69
Checking Acc't as of 7-31-91	\$2,101.17
Saving's Acct as of 7-1-91	\$14,625.52
Transfer to Checking Acc't	4,000.00
Saving's Acc't as of 7-31-81	\$10,625.52
Checking Acc't as of 8-1-91	\$2,101.17
Income	1,381.00
Expenses	1,744.26
Checking Acc't as of 8-31-91	\$1,737.91
Saving's Acc't as of 8-1-91	\$10,625.52
Purchase Awards computer	1,500.00
Saving's Acc't as of 8-31-91	\$ 9,125.52

ARRL Affiliation Achieved

As noted in the Secretary's minutes, MARAC is now an affiliated club with the ARRL. This affiliation must be recertificated annually and requires that a minimum of 51% of our members also be members of the ARRL.

What MARAC offers to the ARRL is a fairly large base of very active radio operators with the common interest in working counties, but many of us have other interests in amateur radio as well. Obviously at least 51% of our members already are ARRL members, or we would not have qualified for club affiliation.

ARRL affiliation allows MARAC to be eligible to apply for club liability insurance through the ARRL program. We were unable to obtain affordable insurance independently and feel it essential to protect the club and the people who convene our conventions.

Another benefit is financial. For each ARRL renewal membership processed through MARAC, we can retain a \$2 fee and for each new ARRL membership a \$5 fee. I would encourage that anyone wishing to renew ARRL membership, or become anew ARRL member, send those checks to me made out to MARAC for the amount you would normally send to the ARRL. Make a note in the memo portion of the check that it is for ARRL membership and include any renewal notice, etc., that you would normally send to the ARRL. I have ARRL applications and will be glad to send them out on request with an SASE.

Shel Mann, N0DRX, Secretary

I wish to thank everyone who exercised their privilege to vote on the confirmation issue. Would have liked to have seen every eligible member vote, but that happens only in fairy tales. Of the ballots received, 8 are not included in the final YES or NO tally; one of them was totally blank, four of them indicated a desire to vote, but had no call sign, MARAC No., or name. As I could not verify voter eligibility, they were not counted, the other three ballots were plainly marked as wishing to abstain or not vote either Yes or No, for reasons of impartiality, or not wanting awards issued with the letter "N" on them for non-confirmed contacts.

The results of 369 valid ballots are:

YES: 199

NO: 167

ABSTENTIONS: 3

Effective October 1, 1991, the MARAC First and Second "Time Awards will continue to require confirmed contacts. ALL other MARAC Awards will have the OPTION of confirmed or non-confirmed contacts. Awards will note an "N" for non-confirmed.

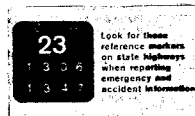
Anyone not wishing to have the "n" on their award may continue to confirm contacts as before and apply for the award as confirmed.

Respectfully submitted, Shel Mann N0DRX, Secretary.

Members Speak!

WV2B, Duane -- I agree with KA2CNG that our handling of emergencies on the net leaves much to be desired. This is especially true regarding the mobiles giving the exact location of the problem.

If you have to report an emergency in New York please be aware that there are small green signs located every 1/4 mile along most roads bigger than cow paths. They contain three rows of numbers, the first row being the route number.



Just report these numbers and they will know exactly where you are. With a sign every 1/4 mile you are not likely to be very far from a sign. I have seen such signs in VT and other NE states, but slightly farther apart.

Members Speak!

WB9NUL, Joyce -- Do you need a challenge? Want to make new friends? Expand your family relationship? The best way might be through County Hunting! Having spent almost 20 years in the MARAC and county hunting organization I can attest to the fact that there is no better way to do these things and there are no better people to do them with.

There are awards to pursue. There are lots of fine people to meet from all over the country and the world, with your family. Learning, experiencing and enhancing your life style...it's GREAT!

I have made more friends, conquered more mountains, and found more fulfillment in the hobby of County Hunting than one could imagine. There's challenge, the fulfillment of helping and aiding others and an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and, it becomes a family affair that you'll never want to lose. There are conventions and get togethers, big and small, that cement that "family" bond.

I want to thank several people who helped get me started in CH'ing and keep me going. Barry, W9UCW, (the OM), the designated driver who thanklessly keeps me on the air! Jim, WA9BHH, who got me started in this hobby and Tom, K9GTQ, who encouraged me and Dave, W6CCM who put up with QSL delays, and Gwen and Jerry, N0COL and N0CKN, who helped me to the USA-CA 663! There are others, or course, countless mobiles, net controls, and individuals, and to all I say THANK YOU!!!! And to paraphrase Gene, N4ANV, County Hunter's are a Family and CH'ing is a Way of Life!

God Bless and see you in the next county!

PS: I haven't forgotten my friends and the net. Our house was hit with lightning and before the antenna and radio are fixed we have to fix the everyday things. See you on the way to the 3M Convention and then in Oklahoma.

Joyce and Barry.

Product Recall!

Five or six county hunters acquired multi-resonator adapters from Barry, W9UCW at the convention in St. Paul. Barry reports that he found some of his adapters did not have adequate threads in the center bore. This would make it impossible to use the adapter properly on a Hustler mast. Barry says that he has a supply of new heavier brass adapters and will send a replacement to those who received a bad one.

He also reports that he received brass and aluminum shipments so he can now supply mobile masts, mast extensions,

solid brass studs and other accessories he was asked about. Contact him at Rt 6, Box 748A, McLelland Rd, Harlingen, TX 78552. Phone 512-423-8660.

Cayman Islands ZF2QK (aka WD7X)

For those or you interested in DX, I'll be on Little Cayman Island from Friday, October 18 through Friday, October 25, with my call ZF2QK. I'll have all bands, SSB and CW. I may not be on the air until Saturday morning, October 26. If you need this country, listen for me during that week. I'll check in on the net frequencies (both SSB and CW) and move off so as not to interfere with normal net operation. For those of you I work who want a QSL and who will be attending the Tennessee Mini in Murfreesboro, save some postage, as I'll be there with logs and QSL's. Otherwise, QSL direct to WD7X.

County Hunter Computer Program Update

I very much appreciate all the feedback from a number of County Hunters who are using the COUNTY program on ways to improve performance and the identification of a number of bugs which have now been corrected.

In addition to the program features outlined in the May edition of the Countyline roadrunner, the following fetures have been added:

1. Accumulated time spent as New Control with the time on and off noted in the station file.
2. Counties remaining to be worked for mobile to mobile contacts.
3. A listing of mobile contacts/counties provided to specified4. A listing of overdue MRC's.
5. A hard copy listing of counties remaining to be worked when there are less than 75 to go.
6. The program is now compiled using Clipper 5.0 rather than an earlier version of CLipper with a considerable increase in operating speed.

The program is available free of charge to those who want to use it. Anyone who currently has a version earlier than V3.10 may want to upgrade (the version is noted on the label of the disk I sent you - if there is no number on the label then you certainly should get a new copy.

Anyone who wants the program should send one 1.44mB or two 720 kB disks to:

G. L. Titus, Comp 9, Site 20, RR 3 Fredericton, NB Canada
E3B 4X4

Please include the latitude and longitude coordinates for your QTH which is necessary for calculation of the beam headings for your location.

Mobile Hints

While taking the old system apart and restoring it in a new vehicle, I came across a problem that may be worth passing on. I have not enjoyed a good signal receive or transmit the last 6 to 8 months...or certainly not like it was when installed.

After going over the rig...all FB, I looked at the antenna and just could not seem to "cure it". While doing recent work, I took the ball at the base of the antenna apart (am using the 2" Hustler) and found the bolt head of the center bolt was just about rusted away! Now this is about a 3/4" head and the water line on the inside of the ball shows that water was present for some time now! If any members find a deteriorating signal problem, they may want to examine their antenna too and may find the same problem. In my case, it was so far shot that it had to be replaced, not repaired.

Because of all the computer/RFI components involved, I decided to install a 1/2" copper tube channel for the power lines from the battery thru the firewall, and have grounded it to the chassis. Will let you know how this works out. KA3DRO.

Alternator Noise Suppressor

Following is a simple and easy way to protect the suppressor from the engine compartment environment, and provide a neat appearance also. The 4-ohm resistor and 0.002 uf capacitor, series connected as suggested in the ARRL Mobile Manual is encapsulated by the use of a hot glue gun, an item which is in prominence these days.

This filter works every bit as well as a commercially built unit did before it fell apart. My suppressor has not failed to work in weather where the temperature has dropped to -10 F, nor has the glue come apart.

Mobile Burglar Alarm

To protect your equipment from theft, try mounting a normally closed push button switch behind the equipment. When the equipment is installed, the switch is open and is connected in parallel with the car horn button, so that if the equipment is removed, the spring return push button will

complete the horn circuit and discourage the thief from any further tampering.

Mag Mount Surface Maintenance

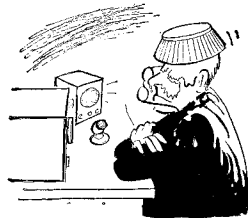
Although magnetic antenna mounts are intended to serve as temporary antenna supports, many use them for permanent installations. As a result, stories of mag mounted related paint damage abound. You can minimize such damage and, with a little care, keep the paint beneath a mag mount free of scratches for many years.

First, prepare the mounting surface by wiping any grit away with a damp cloth or soft rag. Wipe it again with your hand. (Your sense of touch may be able to detect small, sharp particles that might be present.) Next, apply a coat of clear, hard automobile wax to the mounting surface.

Wipe the waxed mounting surface as just described. Check the bottom of the mount to ensure that metal filings or anything that might scratch your car's paint hasn't been trapped by the mount magnet or under the magnet's protective surface coating. If in doubt, clean the bottom of the mount, and clean the waxed mounting surface again. Install the mount.

Wipe the mount and mounting surface regularly (daily, weekly, depending on how dusty or dirty your commute is.) This lessens the chance of grit getting trapped under the magnet and scratching the surface from normal vibration. Clean the mount and mounting surface as soon as possible after driving through a dusty or sandy region, or on roads used by sand or gravel trucks.

Don't rotate the mount when removing it from the car. Force it straight up from the car by its edge. This reduces the lapping wheel effect that occurs if you rotate the mount to remove it.



CS001

"... Well OM I don't want to keep you from your lunch..."

ANNOUNCING...
A New Mini in
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA!!
October 18-19, 1991

We like traveling all over the United States to get together with our fellow County Hunters, but we'd like to show off our home turf, too. So we've decided to invite you all to join us in Southern California, specifically at the **East Shore RV Park in picturesque San Dimas** (a mere 25 miles from downtown Los Angeles and 22 miles from downtown Main Street USA in Disneyland).

We have all you need for a successful mini:

Housing -- besides the RV park, there are nearby motels ranging from the world-renowned Motel 6 to the merely luxurious San Dimas Luxury Suites. A **registration fee**, so you know we want you to come (\$9 for a single, \$12 for an OM/YL team).

A **banquet**, with the ever-popular Ken, KB7QO, MARAC Pacific District Director, as the main speaker, and maybe even a door prize or two. If we can keep it under \$20, we will, but this is Southern California!

And, of course, **time** to sit and tell tall tales about how you got that elusive last county only by exercising your superb operating skills.

Come see BIG counties.

Come meet the man who invented the Spider Antenna (and maybe factory representatives from Kenwood and Yaesu).

Come see Dick, N6OKX, display his technique for restoring lightning-struck antennas (and associated fenders).

Most of all, come have a good time with some of the nicest people around: County Hunters.

**We'd like to know how many to plan on. Send your registration fee to:
 Sam Creason, K6EW, 2940 Arlington Ave., Fullerton, CA 92635.**

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

SPOUSE: _____ CALL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

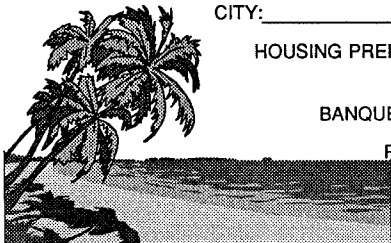
HOUSING PREFERENCE: RV Park: _____ Motel 6: _____ Other: _____

(We'll send you details about whichever one you choose)

BANQUET (No. seats @ \$20): _____ = _____ \$ _____

REGISTRATION FEE \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____



The County Line Roadrunner is a monthly publication of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc., (MARAC). MARAC's stated purpose is to promote mobile amateur radio efficiency and portable; recognize and award outstanding accomplishments in amateur radio with emphasis on mobile operation, both phone and cw and to promote good will and fraternalism among amateurs. MARAC also serves as the communication and social arm of the county hunters. Current MARAC dues and membership information can be obtained by sending a business size envelope with postage for 1 ounce to **MARAC P O Box 64 Newport MN 55055** and request the Information Packet.

The Officers are:

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Other members of the Board include:

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Other Information:

The annual dues are \$16 per year with Newsletter sent via First Class Mail in the U.S. Addresses within the U.S. can join with Newsletter mailing via Third Class Mail for \$13 per year. DX Newsletters (non North America) are sent via Air Mail for \$25 per year. Send all membership dues and address change notifications to the Secretary.

MOBILE QSL BUREAU; P O Box 6436 Florence, SC 29501. USA-CA CUSTODIAN; Dorothy Johnson, WB9RCY; 333 S. Lincoln Ave Mundelin IL 60060. The B & B Shop; P O Box 83403 Phoenix AZ 85071.

Articles and items to be included in the Newsletter must be in the Newsletter Editor's hands prior to the 20th of the month preceding publication. Time bounded material received after that date may not be included in the next issue at the discretion of the editor.

MARAC is Incorporated in the State of Kansas as a Not-For-Profit corporation. The Resident Agent is J. S. Skaptason, 3905 West 120th Terr., Leawood Ks 66209.

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