

COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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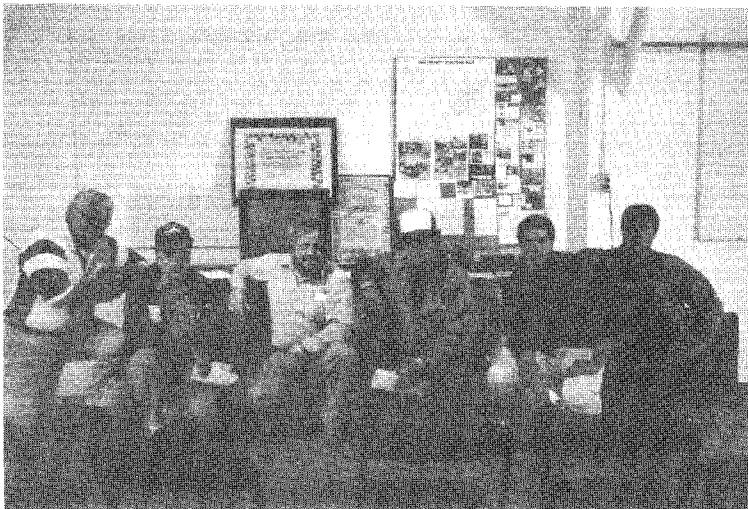
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

Net Operating Tips By Mitch, W4RKV

We occasionally have interference on our net from whistlers or similar characters looking for attention. Having been on the net almost daily since 1983, I have learned that in most cases the interferers will move on in a relatively short time if totally ignored. If we make no response to their activities, they have no way of knowing whether they are being heard or are simply broadcasting to dead air. The worst approach seems to be to refer to them as some form of lowlife

and there-by get into a shouting match with them, which then results in the frequency being unusable for net activities for several minutes.

If the intentional interference persists for an extended period, or the person is using particularly objectionable profanity, when I am NCS I will usually make some form of announcement the "the FCC monitoring service has been called and they are recording the activities on this frequency for voice-print analysis, so all net members please be careful of the language you use. Such an announcement will often convince the interferer to cease and desist.



Name That C. H. 'er By Duane, WV2B

This picture includes some of your favorite County Hunters from WNY and EPA. It was taken after the County Hunters presentation was given at the Elmira, NY hamfest. Their calls in no particular order follows. See if you can match the calls with the correct County Hunter. N3ERE, NO2W, W2EZ, KA3ZGA, KA2CNG, KC2CK.

Featured in the October issue was H. Lee Foster, VE3RN.

Dateline CW By Ed, KN4Y

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

It was a journey of 12,300 miles to run four counties and make 104 contacts to obtain Omega. Gene Kowalewski, W1TEE, on June 29, 1991 ran the county line of Maui and Kalawao, Hawaii, and his quest was complete. He had run all 3076 counties on CW, thus Number 1 on A1.

Gene has agreed to share his experiences during this last leg of his journey.

Gene left Connecticut on June 25, 1991 to fly to Hawaii, one of the few times he was not in his faithful Duster. His rig, an Icom 735 was carried on board, trusting only the antenna to the wrath of the baggage handlers. The antenna and other ham stuff was put into a cylinder mailing tube to facilitate handling. When he arrived, Gene was informed there was a mighty bush fire on the Island of Molokai, so the county run schedule was reversed, a prudent decision for a hot dog operator.

The next day, June 26, 1991, Gene rented a vehicle and prepared to run the county of Honolulu. Battery jumper cables were used to power up the radio and a magnetic mounted antenna to transmit the signal. Gene ran Honolulu County on 20 meters from 1910Z to 1948Z with Norm, W6NNV as NCS, and on 15 meters from 1959Z to 2007Z with Howie, WA4KER, as NCS. Gene turned in the rental car with only 3 miles and the clerk said, "Why the heck would someone rent a car for 3 miles?" I know you did not rob a bank because we do not have one." Not everyone understands county hunting.

Next, Gene was shuttled to the airport to do some Island hopping, which is like bar hopping except done at a higher elevation. The next stop was Kauai County where Murphy was waiting. The Keyer would not function and Murphy laughed. The problem was located and corrected. Gene ran Kauai County at 0200Z on 10 and 15 meters.

The next day, June 27, 1991, Gene ran Hawaii County at 0105Z on 15 meters and 20 meters. The day was uneventful and Gene prepared for an early morning flight to Molokai.

June 28, 1991, was spent trying to find someone who had a key to unlock a cable that blocks the road that leads to Kalawao County!! The trip to the county line is about 1400 feet down a road containing mud holes, large and small rocks and

some spots under water, a rough ride in any mode of transportation. The usual mode of travel to the leper colony is by mule, however, getting a good ground for the antenna is difficult, especially a mag mount. Finally, arrangements were made with Lori to obtain a key to the lock, but it was getting late, so Gene retired for the night. The next day, June 29, 1991, Gene borrowed a car from the mule boss, got the key from Lori and bounced his way to the county line of Maui and Kalawao. Gene ran the county line during a rain storm (would this not be a wet county line?) and the quest was complete.

Alpha was the county of Hartford, CT, on August 20, 1985 and the Omega in Molokai on June 29, 1991. Gene joins Ken Wosika, KB7QO, as the only county hunters who have run all 3076 counties, to date.

Gene would like to thank his brother who flew from Alaska to accompany him and who had the knack of getting a rental car when none were available. Also to the county hunters who worked him and those who were NCS, especially WA6VJP and W6NNV for their double relays. It also helps to have a brother, sister, and lots of nephews located in each of the 49 states, or so it seems. Gene said, "a:ways look up when on the Island, you never know when the wind had loosened a coconut."

Gene could only work each county once, he had to finish before the crowd started arriving for the eclipse of the Sun. Did you know that Gene was also a railroad buff? He has traveled on all the major railroads, perhaps even through petty coat junction. He did not say if he traveled in or on the trains. Congratulations, Gene, from all county hunters.

Gene enjoyed a nice chat with Clarence Gardner, AH6CG, while on the island of Kauai. Gene thanks Ken, KB7QO, and Don, WD7X, for the information about Kalawao County and to Tim for his help in obtaining the key to unlock the cable leading to the mule trail.

In August, Doug, KB8IDW, drove onto the CH CW net, got a quick briefing from Ed, and enjoyed running some counties. Welcome to county hunting Doug. I received a photograph taken during the convention river boat ride from Stu, W2PDM, but I wonder if the camera still works. Stu, how about a county hunters swim suit edition?

Congratulations to Jim, W4HSA, USACA Number 727 who I worked while he was portable marine sailboat, would this be /PMM or /PMS? Boy, what a dummy thing I did, I had the attenuator on during my trip to Palm Beach County, the difference in RST did not register. Has anyone done this before? (Editors confession, "From San Francisco to San Bernardino") You may have noticed more and more mobiles are running counties on other bands, I suggest you send a QSL for the other bands when you send a MRC. I for one could use 40 and 15 meter contacts for the 5 band award.

Had a nice chat with Gwen, N0COL and Jerry,

N0CKN at the Jacksonville hamfest, county hunters are everywhere. Boy what a pleasant surprise when I turned on the rig and heard ZF2QK from the Cayman Islands, thanks Don for the contact. But I cannot find it listed in my coloring book.

This year is coming to a close, it was a wonderful year. The new calls worked, the familiar calls reworked and the convention memories will never be forgotten. What can the new year do for an encore? Happy New Year sez it all. It is not too late to be good, k Christmas is still a few weeks away. Take out the trash without grumbling, get a haircut without prodding, run some counties, smile, and just perhaps Santa will bring you what you want. If not, you can always start grumbling again. Joyful Holiday Wishes to All.

Next article: the K6QWH adventure.

Mighty Honor At Mini

Gene Kowalewski, W1TEE, was presented a beautiful trophy at the Southeast District Mini in Murfreesboro, TN. The presentation was made by Andy, W3XE, on behalf of the CW county hunters. The trophy stands one axe handle high with a vertical mounted straight key (that works) at the base and topped with a gold automobile (not full size) representing Gene's faithful Duster. In addition to the trophy, Gene received a bound first edition containing the letters Ed received in support of the idea. Sally put the letters together and had them delivered in a plain brown envelope, why I do not know.

Congratulations, Gene!



"A simple '10-4' will be sufficient Kolderup... We can do without the '73's Old Man...".



For a couple of days, San Dimas, CA (in rare Los Angeles County) was the home for an impressive gathering of County Hunters from California and points East. Responding to the call of an ad hoc (meaning self-appointed) committee, some 50 people descended on the unsuspecting East Bay RV Park on October 18 and 19 to swap stories, share accumulated

wisdom and hunt for tiny parking places and even tinier patches of shade.

Early arrivals Jan (NV6L) and Jack (NV6I) joined John (KK0L) and Adeline (our most distant travelers -- from Durango, CO, by way of Mesa, AZ) in staking out our picturesque bloc of spaces on the bluff overlooking Puddingstone Reservoir. Pacific Division Director Ken (KB7QO) and Norma also qualified for the early-arrival tag (meaning they got here before any of the host committee made it on Friday afternoon). Once *we* got there, we had a busy afternoon talking people in to a location that wasn't exactly obvious, even if you had a map. Actually, people with maps were at the greatest disadvantage, since the name of the main access street has been changed since most of them were printed. (Our thanks to the trustees of the San Gabriel Valley repeater for the use of their machine as our talk-in frequency.) Lloyd, K0GEN, was one of the early conquerors of the navigation problem, as were Howard (K6QWH) and Grace. Larry, KJ6PJ, made the most dramatic entrance, flying his Cessna into the small airport adjacent to the park. We added to the fun by having to admit to all the repeater listeners (and Larry) that we got lost trying to find the entrance to the airport to pick him up. We guess a sense of direction isn't a necessary prerequisite to county hunting.

By 7:00, a crowd of 35 or so were eager for the promised gathering at a local eatery. Unfortunately, in spite of the best efforts of committee members Dick, N6OKX, and Ted, WA6MUK, the restaurant wasn't as ready as we were -- we had to wait for a birthday party to vacate the premises before we could take over.

Saturday morning, those of us in the RV park woke up, turned on our rigs and spent an hour or so desensizing each other as we tried to work the same counties. Ted, WA6MUK, took a group out to a local airshow, John, WB6ABW, and Eilene went off to try out his JetSki on the reservoir, and the rest of us settled in for the day's socializing in the shifting shade around Adam's (WA6OCI) RV. Among the shade-hunters, we were glad to see our youngest county hunter, Darrel, KK6BB, in company with our newest USACA holder, Darrel, W6TMD. They seemed to know each other. In the category of pleasant surprises, we were delighted to welcome a few county hunters who found out unexpectedly that they had some time to visit with us. Among them were Louie, WB8RJW, and his family, who were in the neighborhood for a family celebration and joined us for a short time.

Unfortunately, the guard at the gate of the RV park hadn't been informed of the existence of our group, and became increasingly disturbed at the arrival of non-

camping vehicles headed into the park. We finally had to go out and reassure him that we had arranged for adequate parking and that we weren't blockading any of the roads.

A high point of the hot day was the arrival of Fred, K6AQI, the inventor of the Spider™ antenna. Fred found a crowd of interested mobilers plying him with questions and checking out his antennas, and everybody seemed to enjoy the interchange.

Meanwhile, Adeline (XYL of KK0L) took Dick (N6OKX) aside and taped the story of his hair-raising (and fender bending) encounter with a lightning bolt in Oldham County, TX, last spring. Look for her writeup soon.

Finally, about 45 hungry hams headed for the local restaurant for the promised banquet -- good food and more good fellowship. Ken, KB7QO, made a few well-chosen remarks and MC Bob, K1BM, led a non-critique of the mini (nobody would criticize it!) and then, with almost no arm-twisting, extracted commitments from Dave (K16YX) and Jan (NV6L) to lead out in the presentation of the next So. Cal. Mini -- probably at some lovely place in Ventura or Santa Barbara Counties. (That idea provoked a resounding "Amen" from Father Terry, K5HZI, and others from the northern counties.)

Then, after the drawing for door prizes contributed by the B&B Shop, the Mobile QSL Bureau, Yaesu, HRO, and Ken (KB7QO) (including a lovely afghan made by Norma), we called it a day and a mini and headed for home. The committee -- headed by Dick, N6OKX, and including Sam, K6EW, (keeper of the treasury), Bob, K1BM (designated host and MC *extraordinaire*), Ted, WA6MUK, Linda, AA6MR, and Hugh, AA6MQ -- were gratified at the attendance of almost 50 for a first-time gathering and at the obvious satisfaction expressed by the attendees.

We look forward to seeing more county hunters from elsewhere at next year's Southern California Mini. Watch for the announcements.

For the record, here is the complete list of attendees: K1BM, K1DFO, WB6ABW & YL, KD6ADQ, WB6ALC, K6AQI & YL & guest, KK6BB, K6EW, WA6HGA, K6HZI, NV6I, NV6L, W6LWM & YL, W16M, AA6MQ, AA6MR, WA6MUK, K6QWH & YL, WA6OCI & YL, N6OKX & YL & 2 guests, KJ6PJ, KC6PPY, W6TMD, W6TKV, KB6UF, WA6UFY, K16YX, KB6YYD, KB7QO & YL, WA7ZGF & YL, WB8RJW & YL, K0GEN, KK0L & YL, VK4WQ

de Hugh, AA6MQ



"How is it you can hear a whisper half way around the world but you can't hear me calling you for supper?"

The Sweetest Award in Ham Radio?

As a male county hunter with an active county-hunting wife, I find there is a remarkable amount of sex discrimination on the net. Or to put it in N6OKX's succinct language, "Hugh, have you noticed that nobody wants to talk to you?" Well, I **have** noticed, and I've decided to do something about it! Herewith, we (Linda and I) are announcing a unique award in county hunting:

The M&M Award

Anyone can qualify for this award simply by working *both* AA6MR and AA6MQ in the same 100 counties. Not *necessarily* at the same time, but that's the easiest way to do it. Upon presentation of a chronological list of contacts, you get the award: a one-pound bag of M&MTMs (unless you insist on a dull old certificate). Obviously this award will require a bit of patience -- we haven't even put out 100 counties yet. On the other hand, we both intend to put them all out over the next few years, and the reward can be repeated as often as you qualify. (We'll even find some ribbons to put on subsequent bags of M&MTMs). Then there'll probably be a special Last County (M&M) award, and if anyone succeeds in following us through to the end of the project and actually works us both in 3,076 counties we'll manage some kind of appropriate acknowledgment -- maybe a MARAC plaque with an M&MTM on the antenna or something. We have time to work these things out: the sky's the limit!

So here's to stamping out sexism and restoring equality of opportunity on the net (not to mention supporting the chosen lifestyle of numberless dentists).

(P.S. We're quite serious about this award, even if not in its description ...)

de AA6MQ and AA6MR



North Central Mini Report

The North Central Mini was held at the Karakahl Inn at Mt Horch, WI on September 19th and 20th, 1991. We had a small attendance this year, but it was a very pleasant time.

We would like to thank everyone for attending and for those who brought prizes. W7ULA, Don and his wife Anna traveled all the way from Oregon. WA9QNI, Jack and Virginia from southern Texas, and Frank, WA2JTY, and Janet from New Jersey. Thanks to Ken and Dixie, Jack and Virginia, and Gari and Sally for all their help and moral support. Lorraine and Arnie.

For Sale

I want to go mobile BUT first....

For Sale: Yaesu FT 767 GX, purchased new in May 1990. Options included are: 2 meter module, SP-767 speaker with filters, MD-1 desk mike, MH-1 Hand mike, FTS-8 Tone squelch unit. Also included is FIF-232C computer interface unit. I will ship in original cartons. I pay shipping. Owned by non-smoker. Also can supply original bill of sale.

Roy Jones, AC4BI 113 Schofill Rd Ft. Valley GA 31030
912-825-1291

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.

W6TMD #729 9-16-91; N6PLQ #730 All Mobile 9-21-91;
VK5AKQ #731 All SSB 10-25-91; N9HRX #732 All SSB
11-14-91; W5RIT #733 11-15-91.

(Editors Note: the above information is published courtesy of Dorothy Johnson, WB9RCY, USA-CA Custodian.)

Counties Required For Special Needs

WV2B Duane 607-849-6516 20 meters SSB to finish states

AR Marion MI Charlevoix

K9ETB Dick 708-358-2623 COLLECT Anytime for BINGO

GA Johnson Paulding Pierce KS Wichita KY Crittenden
Oldham Perry Spencer Union MI Manistee Ontonagon

MO Bates NE Fillmore Saline NM Roosevelt NC
Rutherford OH Mercer Paulding TN Carter Pickett
Summer TX Concho WA Skagit Skamania WV Lincoln

W2EZ Tom NO ONE RINGERS!!! For BINGO

CA Monterey IA Washington MI Gratiot Lapeer PA
Adams WI Door Kewaunee

Counties Needed To Complete USA-CA

W4LQF Paul 703-979-1097 For 2nd time

AK 1st 4th HI Hawaii Kalawao Kauai Maui NE Pawnee
NC Ashe Beaufort OH Wayne

Silent Keys

Word has been received from W0OWY, Bill, of the passing of the following County Hunters. Our prayers go out to their families.

N6UW MARAC R279; WB6VRR MARAC R148; W6YMW
MARAC R1601 and K7JVR MARAC R281.

Minutes of the MARAC November Meeting

The November meeting was held on November 16, 1991 at the Holiday Inn East, St Paul, MN. President Don, WA0LKL, called the meeting to order at 9 AM. Also in attendance were; W0NNH, W0KMH, WA0RJJ, W9LHG, W0FCO, N0DXH, and N0DRX.

Motion was made by Vern, WA0RJJ, to accept the Secretary's minutes of the last MARAC meeting held on Sept 21st, seconded by Jerry, W0NNH, motion carried.

John, W9LHG, presented the Treasurer's Report, which covered activity for the past two months. Motion was made by W0NNH to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by N0DRX, motion carried.

The topic of legal liability was discussed at great length. Motion was made by Ralph, W0FCO, to obtain Club Liability Insurance through the ARRL Affiliation Program; seconded by WA0RJJ, motion carried. The Secretary is to submit the request for insurance to begin coverage in Jan. 1992. Quoted cost for the first year's premium is \$680.

Some of our future convention activities and advertising will need to be modified to assure liability protection for MARAC, the officers and directors of MARAC and people who

conduct the conventions that many of us enjoy attending. A special thank you is extended to our Legal Counsel, Joe, KA9HCA, for his efforts in reviewing the sample liability policy and his input on the issue.

Discussion was held on membership input received either by mail or word of mouth. No action was taken as these involved proposed new awards, or changes in application for existing awards and the Awards Custodian and Awards Committee are looking at those issues along with input from the MARAC officers and Directors.

Motion to adjourn was made by W0KMH, seconded by W0NNH, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Shel Mann, N0DRX, Secretary.

FROM THE SECRETARY

If your mailing label indicates 9201 or 9202, 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, G4KHH.

ARRL Membership Renewals

I wish to thank our MARAC members, who have demonstrated their support of MARAC, by submitting their ARRL renewals through the MARAC Secretary.

For each ARRL renewal membership, MARAC gets a \$@ fee from the ARRL and for each new membership a \$5 fee. I may have mis-informed some of our membership, who attended the mini convention held in WI. Please note, that this DOES INCLUDE SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS. At the time of

the WI mini, it was my understanding that they were not included. I apologize for any confusion on that issue.

To take advantage of this, I ask that you take your ARRL renewal notice and check made out to MARAC for the amount of your ARRL dues and mail them to: MARAC Secretary, Shel Mann, N0DRX, 1618 Pine St., Stillwater, MN. 55082.

MARAC Financial Report

Checking Acc't as of 9-1-91	\$ 983.25
Income	2,922.98
Expenses	2,557.71
Checking Acc't as of 9-31-91	\$1,348.52
Savings Acc't ad of 9-1-91	\$9,125.52
Quarterly Interest	184.49
Savings Acc't as of 9-31-91	\$9,310.01
Checking Acc't as of 10-1-91	\$1,348.52
Income	2,408.50
Expenses	1,810.76
Checking Acc't as of 10-31-91	\$1,946.26
Savings Acc't as of 10-1-91	\$9,310.01
Transfer from checking acc't	1,000.00
Savings Acc't as of 10-31-91	\$10,310.01



"I suppose if I let you buy a mobile rig you'll start moaning for a car."

SEAL AND RIBBONS

or

THE CASE FOR A CHANGE

Sept. 23, 1991 - Phoenix, Arizona. Getting into the supply drawer today, the custodian of MARAC awards today noticed that his supply of blue seals and ribbons was getting pretty low for the on-hand quantity. As has been the practice for some years, that meant it was time to order a new supply.



A quick check of the blank revealed no more stock on the folks doing the packaging (WBØKIN and KAØTTB) have any more ready to ship. They did say they had about a thousand blue seals left and they would finish those up plus whatever red and gold seals they had on hand, they would also package those up and send them off to the Custodian.

Sept. 24th. After having visited several office supply stores with no success in locating a supply of the blue seals, a major office supply house here in Phoenix was contacted. The need was explained and they committed to get to the wholesaler the next day and get a new supply on hand for us.

The Next Day! The office supply house called. The wholesaler cannot supply the blue seals any longer. The office supply store was prevailed upon to contact the manufacturer direct (The Dennison Co.) and order the blue seals direct. At that point a major order was committed to them of some 12 cases of seals to make it a little more enticing for them to get the order thru.

Sept. 27th. The Office Supply Store called back and advised that the Dennison Co. could no longer supply the blue seals since the supplier of the paper to make the seals with no longer was in the business of making that kind of paper.

Sept. 28th - A personal visit to the store manager here in Phoenix was made to explain the need and request his assistance in trying to obtain an additional supply of seals. He committed to do what he could by following up with another call to The Dennison Co. during the next work day.

Sept. 29th - The store manager called back. No luck and he even convinced The Dennison Co. to personally contact each of their warehouse locations just to see if by chance they had some blue seals tucked back in a corner somewhere. No such supply existed.

At this point, there didn't appear to be any further possibility but to change the supplier if another one existed, or change the use of seals on our certificate. It might also be noted that it was hinted during the conversations taking place this past week that the red seals also had a limited life span. Whatever we decided, time was very short to get something going. An immediate plan was needed. We had to make some kind of change in the old established process.

The only alternative to going to all one color seals (and that meant a change in our process of awards) seemed to be to use a peel off seal that was made known to us about three or four years ago when it first became difficult to obtain the Dennison seals. These peel off seals are manufactured by The Lancer Co. from Nebraska. They are available in a variety of styles and sizes and colors of inks. Fortunately we had obtained a catalog

from Lancer earlier and started checking through it.

Lo and behold, there appeared to be a very close match in size to what we presently were using. A 1-7/8" seal with ribbons that could be printed in many different ink colors. This size is exactly the same size seal as we have been using for some time. I called the Lancer Co. to ensure that they were still available and was told that the die used to cut these stickers is and would be available for a long time in the future. So if we did decide to use these stickers, we would be assured of being able to get them for a long time to come.

Sept. 30th. At this point a letter went out to the Awards Committee, the Officer and Directors of MARAC, and other members of the Board to explain our situation and seek their advice. During the next few weeks slightly over half of the folks that were written to responded. Some of the responses received were:

"After reviewing your letters on the subject of seals, I would tend to go with the Lancer peel off stickers if they will permit us to put out a presentable product. If we can get away from the labor factor of embossing seals and cutting ribbon we should do so. I fully endorse changes that will lead to a greater efficiency. 73, Shel, NØDRX"

"Bill, I vote for use of the new Lancer Sticker seals - especially in view of labor savings & lack of change in cost. Everything is going up in price. Nice to be able to stay level for a change. Jim, W4HSA"

"I do not know of any real alternative to the use of peel-off Lancer stickers. The only other way to approach the seal function would be to emboss each certificate with endorsements rather than use seals, but that presents a physical availability problem. My input is to press on with the Lancer stickers. Barry, WA5DTK"

"It looks to me as if you have the 'Award Certificate Seals' situation well in hand. Continue to march. 73, Cliff, WB4FBS"

"In reference to your letter of 9-30-91, I think I have located an exact replacement for the Dennison Notary Seals, Red and Blue. According to samples I saw at an office supply store in Olathe, they gave me an address from a catalog for DENNEY - REYBURN CO in Los Angeles. Suggest you get in touch with them. I think the printed items without the actual ribbons will look 'second rate'. Bob, KØAYO"

Following this input from Bob, I called the phone number that he provided. It had been disconnected with no other information available. I called the 213 information service and they could find no listing for a DENNEY REYBURN Co. anywhere in Calif. at all. I then turned to the local Phoenix phone book and found a number for them locally. Called the local number and found out that I was talking to the HQ location for Denney Reyburn. But they couldn't tell me anything about the blue or red seals as that was handled by their plant in Menasha, Wisc. A call was placed to Denney - Reyburn in Menasha and connected with a friendly voice that listened to my tale of search and frustration. She promised to talk to the manufacturing engineers and get back to me as soon as possible.

She called back the following day and advised that they no longer manufactured the Red or the Blue seals since they could

no longer get the raw materials. She advised that they used to get the Red and Blue foil from China but that it was no longer available. So this seemed to be another dead end.

At this point, it seemed prudent to start a conversation with the Lancer Co. that would lead to placing an order for some seals which I did. Eventually an order was placed to print an initial supply of one color sticker seal with ribbons. In the meantime, other comments and letters continued to come in.

"If at all possible, I would like to see the use of seals continued. Of course, that is dependent on availability of seals. With no seals, we will have to use colored ribbons or if that is not attractive, eliminate the concept of seals altogether. I like the suggestions of gold seals and colored ribbons. Vern, WAØRJJ"

Oct. 22nd. Another letter went out to all the folks mentioned previously and asked for any other input they might have. I also said that the only alternatives that had come up were to use all gold seals with colored ribbons or eliminate seals altogether. More input followed.

"I know of no source of seals here. I used Dennison. The Lancer seals sound good to me. Second choice would be just ribbon. There shouldn't be a problem getting ribbon. Tom, KBØKS."

"I am elated with the choice of Lancer stickers in place of the seals. It is the very best solution. Don, WD7X"

"My suggestion would be to go with the Lancer seal as it would save some labor time and do the job well. John, WB2NFB"

Another note from KØAYO. "Bill - I think all gold seals with colored ribbons would be nice. Same as the USA-CA certificate. Bob"

"The seal problem is obvious to this jaded eye....use the Lancer product. Or start using gold, blue or red stars as a last resort. Far as I know, nothing is available locally to replace Dennison. This was the same situation Stamp Collectors faced a few years back when Dennison quit making 'stamp hinges'. So my vote is to use the Lancer product.....if they are not plastic. If so, start using stars. Buster, NØCKC"

"From the sound of things, I think we should go with the Lancer Seals, if they can be obtained. Just to see what they would say, I called some of the office supply stores here in the Twin City area and got the same answers you did. I am for anything that will make it easier for the Awards Custodian to do his job the easy way. 73 de Jerry, WØNNH"

"Then I have two other thoughts - First I surely think peel stickers would be so much easier for you. And I would like to see one - but I think the idea great. I myself have not been putting the seals on my certificates with ribbons. Also, the USA-CA award has 5 seals - all gold with different colored ribbons. This hit me as an immediate solution to the problem!! Until you mentioned the peel seals. I feel sure our certificates would look fine either way. Ken, KB7QO"

Well folks, that is the input I have received so far. Just what we need was another problem to solve right when there are many other things going on. But then that is the way it goes. The majority of folks I heard from preferred the Lancer seal so that is the way we are proceeding.

The Lancer seals are available in a perforated form so that each sticker becomes easy to detach and mail with the various awards and or stubs. The seal itself peels off the backing quite easily and is easier to apply to the certificate than the old lick and stick kind.

From a cost standpoint, ordering a thousand at a time, they will cost just about the same as the seals and ribbons that we have been using. By ordering a larger quantity the cost will drop below what it has been running in the past.

By using seals printed with the Red, or Blue, or Gold ink we will be able to closely simulate the product that we have been using for nearly twenty years.

It will be much easier for us to administer these peel off stickers since we won't have to emboss them or package them or cut ribbons. A big time savings for all concerned and still should look pretty good on the certificates we issue.

I will have ordered an initial supply of these stickers and be ready to start using them by the first of the year. We should have enough of the old style to last until then plus a few extra to save for rounding out certificates that have already been started with the old style seals.



I will attempt to reproduce the actual sticker here but they will be ordered them with some differences. There are three changes that we would like to get on the final product:

We will use a larger and bolder type style.

The center will be done in a reverse image to more closely imitate the Dennison seals.

The ribbons will be printed with a full bleed so that there is no white edge showing around the ribbons.

Here is a reproduction of the seal/ribbons that we had printed.



This seal is shown actual size. Bear in mind the changes we will be making. 1) Larger and bolder print. 2) Reverse print of the center. 3) Ribbons will be printed without a white border.

The seals can be printed in blue, red, or gold ink to closely resemble what we have in use today.

During the next several weeks or as long as they last, one such sample sticker will be applied to

each award envelope going out so you can see for yourself what the true image is like.

Pending an end of the year start up with the new seals, if you have any other ideas, let me hear from you.

73 de Bill, WØWOY



FOURTH TIME AROUND ANNOUNCEMENT

The B&B Shop is pleased to announce
the following winner of the

IV AWARD

The Fourth Time Award # 13
is awarded to

K5RPC
Ray Phillips

November 7, 1991

Endorsed: MIXED BANDS, ALL SSB

Monterey - San Benito Santa Cruz - Santa Clara

K6HZI, Fr. Terry, will make a special trip on December 14th to where these four counties meet. He will try to get into the net and on the list about 1900, and then wait his turns to run the two county lines of Monterey - San Benito and Santa Cruz - Santa Clara. He will have 40-20-15-10 SSB only.

Address Changes, New Calls Corrections

R1711 KE4UP 102 Impala Dr #77 Newport News VA 23606-1925
R773 AI5P Mil/Del PSC 80 Box 86 APO AE 09724
R1843 KC3X Paris Embassy (CPU) Unit 21551 Box 402B APO AE 09777
R2388 702 Freeman Berryville AR 72616
R1330 K4BZV P O Box 1255 Freer TX 78357
R2102 K4CCW P O Box 1255 Freer TX 78357
R1517 K8BXT 574 SW Linden St Stuart FL 34997
R2040 WAS KA1HGY NOW WS1Y
R2084 N3DRO 92 Palmer Ave Unit 02 Stamford CT 06902-5310
R676 K3RI 888 E Clinton #1126 Phoenix AZ 85020
C-62 WB4FBS P O Box 58 Essie KY 40827 (Leslie)

R1274 KM4W RD # 8 Box 8690A Unit #11 Manchester TN 38166-2410
R1996 KF5UC 199 Redbud Trail West Fork AR 72774
R2188 KI6YX 4785 Los Angeles Ave Somis CA 93066 (Ventura)
R954 WB9QNX 6920 N. Lakeshore Dr Chippewa Falls WI 54729
R1897 VE1RY Box 2037 Greenwood Nova Scotia Canada B0P 1N0
R2417 VK5AQZ 2 Athol Ave Tranniere South Australia 5073 Australia
R843 WB0KSW 6721 E. Victoria Dr Tucson AZ 85730
C98 K2NJ 911 Rt 579 Flemington NJ 08822
R676 K3RI 6704 N. 69th Lane Glendale AZ 85303
R1643 1276 Highway 85 Belen NM 87002
R2092 WAS KB8DWQ NOW N5WRX
R1248 KB9TE 414 25th Cairo IL 62914
R1914 C/O P O Box 1418 Sarasota FL 34230
R293 W0RLR 702-J North Ventura St Ojai CA 93203-2707 (Ventura)
R623 WB5LOZ RT 1 Box 573 Lagrange NC 28551 (Lenoir)
R1298 WB7VIZ NEW ZIP CODE 86301
R1839 N4KAK 9461 Keenes Mill Rd Cottondale AL 35453 (Tuscaloosa)
R2292 WASOPO Rt 4 Box 175 Gun Barrel City TX 74147 (Kaufman)
R2395 W4OGG 5356 Virgil Rd Memphis TN 38134 (Shelby)
R1664 WAS WB3EFG NOW KD3XA

Gene, N4ANV



MARAC CONVENTION

Hampton, Va. - July 8-12, 1992

In the true Christmas spirit we extend to all our friends hopes for peace everlasting and good will for all mankind.



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UNIQUE DINING
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Gotta Get To The Pottery!

CHRISTMAS SHOP

While in Williamsburg you make it to the Pottery you don't want to miss anything else. Our Pottery is not just a store, it's a place where you can find everything you need for the holidays. We have a large selection of pottery, including vases, bowls, and plates. We also have a large selection of Christmas decorations, including candles, figurines, and ornaments. We have a large selection of Christmas cards, including cards for family, friends, and business. We have a large selection of Christmas gifts, including books, toys, and electronics. We have a large selection of Christmas food, including cookies, cakes, and pies. We have a large selection of Christmas drinks, including wine, beer, and soft drinks. We have a large selection of Christmas services, including haircuts, manicures, and pedicures. We have a large selection of Christmas entertainment, including movies, music, and games. We have a large selection of Christmas everything you need for the holidays.

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1ST PRIZE HAM TICKET

KENWOOD TS-450S

Members Speak!

W6CCM, Dave - It has been some time since I wrote anything for inclusion in the **Roadrunner** but the recent articles by Bob, K1BM and Stu, W2PDM prompt me to sit myself down and stick in my two cents worth.

First of all to Bob, your proposed changing of the rules or the creation of yet another award was I am sure "tongue in cheek" and not meant to be taken seriously. This would have been a block-buster article for the April **Roadrunner**. I remember writing an article one April in which I stated that the 20 meter Independent County Hunters had disbanded and pointed out the ramifications of such an act, 2000 ex-net members now spread out all over the band still chasing counties. Another time I wrote something regarding the Bureau closing its operation. The surprising thing was there were a few who believed me. In re-reading your rules, Bob, I see where I made the BINGO way too easy when I first set it up. Since I no longer administer this prestigious award, I am not at liberty to make changes as you suggested. Personally, I like your "Hard Way" idea and who knows, I might just work it your way, just for my own satisfaction.

Stu, you bit. And hard. You probably don't know Bob as well as I do or else you too would have laughed at his proposal as I am sure most of us did. But Stu, you always were a rather serious person.

I finally got myself a beam and a tower so I am making contacts from time to time. I promised my new wife that I wouldn't allow county hunting to rule my life like it once did. I have been in touch with many of my old friends via letter and phone calls and it is rewarding to be remembered. I am still on good terms with Gwen and Jerry, N0COL and N0CKN in spite of the fact that I enslaved them to the Mobile QSL Bureau. I couldn't have picked a better successor if I spent all my time looking. I get copies of the **Bureau Drawer** from time to time and really enjoy reading the antics of the members.

I listen to the net quite often and from time to time jump in and make a BINGO contact. Now that I have VE1AIT's program loaded on my IBM, I'll probably get more active. Don't have the power I once had but I am getting fairly good reports.

As I looked over my past issues of the **Roadrunner** in preparation for writing this brief note, I was astounded by the centerfold in the August issue. I saw faces I had never seen before and several that I had seen quite often and often quite close up. I miss coming to the conventions and I am making big plans for the one in the greater northwest, whenever it is. One burning question which I hope someone will take the trouble in answering, When did Mickey Rooney join MARAC? I am referring to the picture on the left where Bill, WOOWY,

is presenting a trophy to him. And on the facing page, is that K9GTQ with a white beard or was that a poor reproduction of the picture. I wasn't at the convention in body but you can bet I was there in mind and spirit.

That's about all from southern California for this time. Perhaps I'll think of something again in the near future. Dave.

W7KEU, Keith - The subject of mobile antennas has many sides and I just experienced one a few months back; hearing my rig quiet and seeing my antennas bounce on the road behind the car with traffic closely behind. When I recovered the mast, and pieces of three resonators, I was in some shock.

Skipping ahead, I sent the pieces of the three Hustler resonators, and quick disconnect and ball mount in a box to Hustler, hoping they could salvage something from what was left.

This is an un-solicited testimonial to the great folks at Hustler. None of my broken system was still covered by their warranty, however they sent me all new factory packaged parts for all but one of the system parts. In visiting with the customer service department, they said they couldn't give me full credit for a resonator over 9 years old but charged me a mere R10 to restore my system like new.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO EACH AND

EVERYONE

OF YOU.

BOB, KOAYO

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.

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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.

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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.

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