

COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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A Publication of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.

An ARRL Affiliated Club

SSB Net 14.336 CW Net 14.056.5

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Net Operating Tips By Mitch, W4RKV

When a mobile has been announced by the NCS and starts his/her run, there are usually a lot of stations waiting to work him, particularly if the county is a "rare one". The moment the mobile says "QRZ", stations will start calling, and anything the mobile adds after that, such as his call and or county, will be covered up by the Boomers. Since the term QRZ is the trigger, why not make it the LAST word voiced?

A format similar to the following should cut down on a lot of the doubling: "Kulawao, HI, N9CHU, QRZ?" This brief announcement says it all, and puts the QRZ at the end where it belongs.

(A further suggestion from K0AYO, Bob). During a mobiles "run" the county, state and MOBILE'S CALL should be announced every 5 or 6 calls or at a MINIMUM three times during the run. This only takes a few seconds (about two contacts) but will result in several contacts not being made by those who for whatever reason missed the announcement and worked the mobile just in case and then finds out it is already worked!

Amateur Achievement Co.
Congratulates



Ed Hexter, AC4MP #001
Native American Counties
Award

Computer Programs For County Hunting

In the April issue of the **County Line Road Runner**, a section will be reserved for publication of computer programs for use in connection with county hunting activities. If you have, or know someone who has such a program please forward a listing of what the program does, requirements for hardware, cost, etc not to exceed ONE page to the editor prior to MARCH 20, 1993, for inclusion. As of this publication, I have information on a ZIP CODE, County program, Kwiklog and CHUBS. I know there are several more out there in radio land.

2nd Quarter N/C-MOB Ballot Results

Following is a listing of vote results for 2nd quarter Best N/C - Mob. First, second and third place winners are in **BOLD**; there is still time to get your ballots in for the 3rd quarter, deadline is March 20, 1993. All votes received count toward the Annual winners, remember the rule changes for this year say that previous ANNUAL winners can not repeat as Annual winners but can be quarterly winners.

SSB N/C -- **K1QPV 64(POINTS) 1ST PLACE**;
KA1JPR 2; NO2W 14; VE2MS 7; WA2CNJ 2; KZ2P 2;
WA3TUC 4; **WA4KER 32 2ND PLACE**; W4RKV 4; AC4MP
3; **W5UJO 30 3RD PLACE**; WA5INV 6; N6PWS 2; K7CLO
2; N7OTR 3; N7BKW 9; N8ELQ 5; WB9NUL 2; N0KGX 3;
KC0IA 8; AC0IO 2;

SSB MOBILE -- N1GCZ 3; W1WLW 3; KA1JPR 2;
VE2MS 6; WV2B 3; N2INE 2; N3DRO 13; KB3GN 13;
WA4NBC 29 2ND PLACE; AA4HD 8; KB4XK 10; N4SPN
2; KC4DUP 2; KGSUZ 2; KC5UO 2; N6ERM 3; **KK7X 23
3RD PLACE**; KD8HA 6; KX8Z 3; N8ELQ 3; NT9V 21;
N9HRX 8; WA9QNI 2; KT9V 3; N9DEH 3; **WA0SBR 33 1ST
PLACE**; W0AYL 6.

CW N/C -- NO2W 2; **KA3MMM 10 3RD PLACE**;
W3XE 3; N5CKW 2; **N5DKW 14 2ND PLACE**; **WA6VJP 50
1ST PLACE**; N7MPS 5; W0MY 6; N0CYB 2.

CW MOBILE -- W1TEE 2; W3X3 3; W3DYA 16
3RD PLACE; KB4XK 2; KA4IFF 9; WU4S 4; KCSP 2; KG5J
2; WD5BEO 3; K5HKX 2; N7MPS 3; KK7X 3; KD8HB 18
1ST PLACE; WA9QNI 11 3RD PLACE TIE; NF9A 6;
N0CYB 10; NG0T 11 3RD PLACE TIE.

Minutes of the MARAC December Meeting

The December MARAC meeting was held on December 12, 1992 at the Holiday Inn East, St Paul, MN. Vice-President Bob, W0KMH called the meeting to order at 9AM. Also in attendance were: W9LHG, WA0RJ, WA0SMX, W0NNH, W0OUPU, W0WVO, N0DXH and N0DRX.

Motion was made by John, W9LHG, to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the November 14, 1992 meeting, seconded by Jerry, W0NNH, motion carried.

W9LHG presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by W0NNH, seconded by Vern, WA0RJ, motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the election of a new slate of officers with ballots to be sent out with the May Newsletter. The Nominating Committee is to be appointed by the Executive Committee in December.

The January meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn East, St Paul, MN at 9AM on January 9, 1993.

Motion to adjourn was made by W0NNH, seconded by W9LHG, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Shel Mann, N0DRX, Secretary

Northwind Notes By N0DRX, Shel

I have been impressed by the number of multiple year membership renewals, that have come in over the last couple of months. For last month, the average membership processed, was for 1.58 years, with the longest being for 5 years. While I appreciate all new and renewal memberships, I do encourage multiple year memberships, as it lowers the workload on the Secretary and lowers the chances for you to miss your expiration date.

We are still not experiencing an increase in our total number of active members, but the decrease seems to have flattened out. As all of our active members are aware, the Awards

Program has a direct correlation to being an active member. Current MARAC Members pay lower fees for most MARAC Awards. Please encourage our non-current members and potential new members to become active members of MARAC.

Every member current in July 1992, should have received a copy of the 1991-1992 MARAC Annual Report. Any new member since then, has also been sent a copy. Keep in mind, that our Fiscal Year ends March 31st. This report is an excellent reference for many of the questions that come up. However, a recent issue of the Road Runner is a better source for a current listing of the present Officers and Directors.

Wanted - For Sale

W0KZZ - Carl, Wanted, a recent listing of Packet Radio address of County Hunters. Carl Reed 1307 Oak St No. Fargo ND 58102

K0AYO - Bob, For Sale, Heath HA-10 Linear \$50. Bob Dyson 8943 Overhill Circle De Soto KS 66018-9480.

Latest USA-CA Members

Following are the latest individuals to reach the USA-CA pinnacle. Congratulations to all.

#791 HB9RG 12-22-92; #792 KS3I 01-01-93; #793 NV6I 01-08-93; #794 WA4HXG 01-08-93.

WA3RTY, Norm CQ Magazine editor for The Awards Column also would like to announce that in the near future after the initial listing using the CQ Record Book for the 1st 500 counties, he plans on accepting upgrades via computer disks as well as paper. Watch for further information. In connection with this announcement, programmers of county hunting programs should drop Norm, WA3RTY, a note for his requirements.

Counties Required For Special Needs

K7CLO Mike For BINGO

GA Pickins Wilkinson IA Butler Lee MI Alpena MN Pope NE Brown Rock ND Grant Oliver Sioux OK Creek Kingfisher

KD8HA George For 2nd Time 513-834-2024 Collect

AR Fulton Independence ID Valley IA Grundy Lee Mahaska Van Buren KY Clinton Elliott Grayson MN

Brown Goodhue Isanti Wright NC Davidson OR Tillamook TN Cocke Pickett Polk Tipton TX Willacy VA Charlotte Smyth

W2CUK Tom For BINGO

ND Divide WY Niobrara

PT2TF Teresa To Finish States

MN Big Stone Stevens Yellow Medicine MI Lake Newago MS Calhoun Franklin Holmes Jefferson Davis MO Howard NE Knox ND Hettinger PA Armstrong TN Macon VA Patrick and one in TX.

WB0DPD MARAC Club Station To Finish States For 2nd Time

MT Chouteau Daniels Deer Lodge Granite Sheridan NV Lincoln Storey ND Eddy Foster PA Forest Pike Potter SC Calhoun Greenville Kershaw WV Hardy Ohio Marion CA San Benito GA Madison Richmond Turner MD Calvert Howard St Marys MA Franklin MS Franklin Issaquena Smith

PHOENIX, ARIZONA DEC. 15, 1992

K0AYO called me at home today and asked for a re-do on the County Hunter Guidelines which have been published in the past. They are reproduced here and if necessary will be split up into several issues of the Roadrunner depending on the space available.

I would like to ask as you review these guidelines to provide feedback to me in the form of suggestions or modifications if either the guidelines need to be altered due to the way the counties are being run currently, or if there is a better way to explain the current procedures. These guidelines are not meant to be a dictate of "How to Do It" but rather should reflect the current procedures as generally followed on the net. These guidelines may or may not exactly follow all rules for the USA-CA All Counties award. If you have exact questions regarding that award, please contact Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY, the new USA-CA Award Custodian.

I would also like to express appreciation to Dorothy Johnson, WB9RCY for her fine efforts for many years holding forth as the USA-CA Awards Custodian and the author of the Awards Column in CQ Magazine. Dorothy, thanks to you for your ten full years of effort.

If you will all take the time to provide input on the operating guidelines, I will do the data collect and publish a revision at the appropriate time.

Thanks for your input and I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Dateline CW By Ed, KN4Y

The great tragedy of county hunting—the slaying of a beautiful mobile run by a world wide contest.

Be sure to check the contest calendar before embarking on a weekend trip just to run counties. A world wide CW contest on frequency can be like working a county during a rock concert. Some like the challenge, but not everyone makes love while skiing down hill. This would also apply to those who schedule mini conventions.

The SSB county hunters net on 14336 KHz was silent, but the CW net on 14056.5 KHz was going strong. What had happened to silence the KW jawbones? Something had to be done quickly, the psychotic wards were filled to capacity with alumni who were no longer able to QRM the sideband net, and suicides were increasing as many hams had no bench mark for tuning up. The SSB net must quickly get back into operation or the country medical system and State hospitals would go belly up.

Various investigative agencies were called but were unable to explain this unspeakable phenomenon. Finally, five times around Harry was called in to help. He noted there were more participants on the CW net than usual and concluded whatever happened affected only the SSB net, some of whom had checked into the CW net.

But, further investigation indicated Harry's initial assumption to be incorrect. The culprit was a superb super glue that had accidentally been put on the flaps of 9.2 cm X 16.5 cm envelopes, the type county hunters use to mail MRC's, and when a county hunter licked the flap the lips stuck together. Both SSB and CW operators were affected, but since CW operation does not require the flapping of the lips the CW net continued in session. The SSB operators who had kept their CW skills active just moved down the band and kept working counties, until their lips came apart. Those who had not kept their CW skills sharp were destined to go shopping with their spouses. Divorce lawyers would no longer answer their phones. Daycare centers started designs for additional space. Many felt as useful as a beeper on a cadaver.

The morale of this story is to keep your CW skills active. You never know when you may have to be one with A1. One good way to keep your skills sharp is to work and run counties on both nets. This may mean an extra resonator when mobile, which can, by the way, be changed with your lips stuck together.

Keep in mind that the CW net does not have mobiles running all the time and when you dial in 14056.5 KHz you may hear nothing. If you are mobile send "CHN? de (your

call)". If no response, check your frequency, and if okay call, "CQ CHN de (your call), County, State, QRZ." What happens next will surprise you, settle back and start working the calls at your CW speed and have a ball (net speed is about 18 WPM but is flexible and will quickly adjust to the mobiles speed). Beware. CW operation can be addictive.

Dorothy Johnson, WB9RCY, the CQ USA-CA award program chief is gone, just when you get them trained they retire and the cycle starts over. Thanks Dorothy for a job well done and try CW. Don't worry about your CW speed, you can be slow, or you can be fast, or you can be half fast, you will like it. P.S. please don't forget to mail my plaque and shut off the lights before you leave.

Speaking of contests, is everyone ready for the annual county hunters 10 meter CW party? If not, now is the time to get that resonator tuned to the novice portion of ten meter band and get ready to operate, there should be more mobiles active this year if the CW CHN mobile activity is any indication. The contest announcement should be published soon.

Call CQ CH when you QSY off the CW net frequency and not CHN which means county hunters net. When you QSY you are no longer on the net, so keep this in mind. However, use CHN when calling on the net frequency used on other bands. For example, 7035 or 21056.5 KHz.

The mobile is putting out a clean 599 signal when suddenly, like a toothache, the signal develops a chirp or burp. This could be caused by a gassy operator (hi) or most likely low voltage. Tell the sender so the mobile can be started and the battery recharging. Usually the chirp is no longer heard. Last month I mentioned that I had sent a batch of MRC's to the QSL bureau on 11/3/92 and so far I have received two back. One enclosed in the trip schedule from W3DYA and one direct from N5QLZ. Stay tuned for further developments.

The mobiles heard on the CW net during December were: NW1O, KA3MMM, KG5I, WQWQS, WA2CNJ, AA4GA, NF9A, WU4S, WN3C, KB4XK, W4HMY, KM8U, W3DYA, KB5MD, KD8HB, WD5BEO, K7GJZ, NA5F, K15TV, KC5P, WD3P, W1TEE, W0WYJ, W1ZM, NF0X, KM4W, NT8S, K7AKT, KN4Y, N7MPS, K5GA, KB5IPQ, NO8Q, WD7X, W3ARK, WB4FFV.

Counties Needed To Finish USA-CA

W2FXA, Gene 716-655-4162

MN Renville MT Beaverhead NJ Union NC Jones OR Polk PA Cambria VT Orange VA Buchanan

N6HJY, Rich 510-537-9264 COLLECT

AR Marion VA Wise

Members Speak!

WN3C, Mac -- A lot of county hunter (CH) news is passed on the CH Nets. This information (counties to be run, trips, new USA-CA numbers, etc) is disseminated on the nets through out the day as mobile activity permits. For myself, and I'm sure many others, I'm usually not able to listen to the nets except when I'm out running counties, so I miss a lot of news.

I propose that we make use of the extensive amateur packet bulletin board system (BBS). Got a trip planned? Send a packet message addressed to CHN@USA and we all can get the news before it's too late. For example: Subject: Trip Planned Text: Going to MD eastern shore (including Kent) and DE 1500Z, 18 December - 0200Z a9 December 92 20m ssb, 20 cw, 40 ssb and cw available. Send your needs to WN3C@WB3V.MD.USA

Got a new USA-CA number? Let us know on CHN@USA packet BBS. Maybe we could ask the USA-CA awards custodian to send these when they are awarded? How about the MARAC awards custodian? The Mobile QSL Bureau? Maybe these folks have some news they would like to get out quickly. I hope all are receptive to this proposal and take advantage of the packet BBS. A few words of caution, PLEASE, no "For Sale", no gripes, no complaints, no soap boxing, in CHN@USA bulletins. There are enough of those kinds of bulletins and they only serve to alienate the sysops. And finally, don't send your needs as a bulletin. Send them only in a direct reply to a station that has requested needs in a bulletin. Good hunting.

W4IGW, Ed -- I have a small gripe for some of the mobiles that operate on the net. It seems that many do not announce their county anytime during the run. I am a retired person who is as busy as the proverbial one armed paper hanger and can not spend all my time at the rig. I am either in and out of the shack or the car and frequently hear a strong signal from a mobile who keeps saying QRZ and never says what the county is -- even when the calls begin to get fewer. Perhaps he or she will say "anyone else" and stand by. I know that sometimes the allotted 10 minutes seems like precious little time to put out that rare county but I believe many calls are made by stations who do not really need the county but call anyway for fear that they might need it. I certainly believe it would help to announce the county at least two or three times during the run. Sometimes I can hear the mobile better than the NCS or assistant, who usually announce it at the beginning and end of the run.

WSILR, Ed -- I have been sitting here this morning listening to

a discourse on the net frequency concerning the proper method for listing the date on an MRC. I'm not sure what MARAC's instruction or position is on this issue..I agree whole heartily that finding 10-12-92 on an MRC is very exasperating. There is very definitely two accepted approaches to this problem. Which one should we use? I recommend the following, which I consider a SENSIBLE APPROACH, not withstanding it's other acceptable points. Put the day first, the moth next, and the year last. Example, 10 DEC 92. Note that the month is spelled out. In county hunting I would advocate there is no one, DX'er or otherwise, who does not know and understand what the letters DEC stands for. A standard abbreviation for the months should be: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec. Even using this approach when QSLing a DX'er would straighten out questionable contact dates. Any DX operator could readily find what MAR stood for if he didn't know immediately. I highly recommend MARAC consider accepting and re-publishing for all to know, the suggested method for listing dates. Thanks. (Editors Note: Awards Chairman's slip for Last County Awards require the use of MO-DA-YR (01-20-93) to speed up the input process)

(SLAITNEDERC SI REWSNA ELZZUP EHT)

KA2CNG, John -- State abbreviations in MRC have always been a problem for county hunters especially the newcomers to our organization. We better hope that Andy Rooney never joins MARAC or the QSL Bureau is going to have a real headache. Andy has a short essay in his most recent book "Sweet and Sour" that should bring a smile to county hunters. Here are some of his observations. Andy doesn't like CT and says CONN says a lot more for his state the CT. He also takes issue with WI for Wis. It just does not make any sense, because following that rule, Penn should be PE and not PA -- and Tenn should be TE and not TN. And some states names should be left alone like Ohio, Utah, Iowa, and Hawaii. The Postal Service's designation for Hawaii is the ridiculous and demeaning "HI". When hams use HI they are seldom if ever think of Hawaii, or are they? And WA does not begin to say what a good state Washington is -- the site of next years County Hunters Convention.

W4MRD, Charlie -- First, let me say that it is a real pleasure to work with the folks on the County Hunter CW Net. You are all a fine bunch of operators; always willing to help the other guy and for the most part courteous and cooperative.

I have noticed most of us are mending our operating habits to conform to "Good operating hints" that have appeared in the **Road Runner**. 599 reports are being transmitted only once while the weaker 229 reports are repeated. The use of the word ALSO helps the receiving station understand his report easier. We are still plagued by Tuner-uppers that if they have a dummy it is at the wrong end of their rig. Some times stations telling the interfering station to QSY block out the CH

station worse than the tuner-upper but it all works out fine in the end. Sometimes too the interference is accidental like this Nov when I ran mobile thru TN (or is that Tenn, Editor??) some idiot kept sending long dashes on the net. Imagine my chagrin when I discovered the idiot was ME. I was setting my key in my lap between transmitting periods and each time I leaned forward my tummy pressed the key and blurted out a DAH.

One thing I don't fully understand is why tell a mobile he gave you a new one? Most all counties are new ones for me.

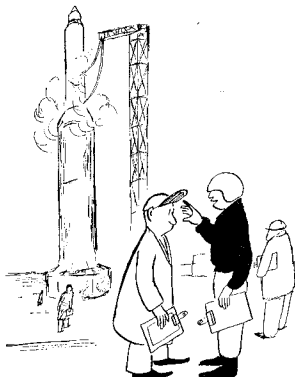
K7CLO, Mike -- I know a lot of the mobiles I've contacted haven't received any QSL's from me in 1992 & I am in the process of getting all of the cards made out for 1992 & will be sending them to the QSL Bureau, I'll bet Gwen and Jerry will love that big bundle.

WV2B, Duane -- Wanted to rent or borrow, equipment for a DXpedition to St Paul Island, CY9 in July 1993. Antenna, rig, amp or ???

A Puzzle

My first is in County but not in a State
My second's in grid but not on the plate
My third lies in mobile but also in base
My fourth is in window but not out in space
My fifth is in GREED-that's going too far
My sixth is in analyze but not in four-star
My seventh is in situation, important because
My eighth's in operation-not like it WAS
My ninth's found in gravy but not in a stew
My tenth's found in relay but NOT a two-two
My eleventh's not in moan or whinge but in shout
My whole is something you mustn't be without!

G4KHG, Eddie



... for the last time, I'm not making any skeds . . ."

Minutes of the MARAC
January Meeting

Northwind Notes
By, N0DRX, Shel

The January MARAC meeting was held on January 9, 1993 at the Holiday Inn East, St Paul, MN. Vice-President Bob, W0KMH called the meeting to order at 9AM. Also in attendance were: W9LHG & xyl Virginia, WA0RJJ & xyl Nancy, W0NNH, W0BUPU, N0DXH and N0DRX.

Motion was made by Jerry, W0NNH, to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the December 12, 1992 meeting, seconded by Vern, WA0RJJ, motion carried.

W9LHG presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by W0NNH, seconded by Bill, W0BUPU, motion carried.

Expenses owed to our prior Awards Chairman, W0OWY, totalling \$2,359.26 were discussed. This included some expenses going back as far as March 1992 and included substantial costs incurred in transferring the Awards Equipment and Records to the present Awards Chairman. WA0RJJ moved and W0NNH seconded, that the Treasurer should pay these expenses; motion carried. We also wish to Thank W0OWY, for his efforts in transferring the equipment and records to K4QFK.

K4QFK now has the Awards Program. With the responsibility of the Awards Chairman Position, comes a great deal of latitude in operating the Awards Program. He may choose whom and in what manner, he wishes others to assist him.

There was discussion about the MARAC window decals, that the Secretary has been sending back with every new and renewal membership. It is not economically prudent to continue this practice at this time. While the limited supply of decals that the Secretary has left lasts, they will be dispersed in the following manner: 1) Each new MARAC Member will receive one. 2) Each current member, who requests a decal and includes an SASE will receive one.

W0KMH is heading up the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election. Up for election are the 7 Headquarters Positions (4 Officers + 3 Headquarters Directors) as well as the District Director Positions for the Great Lakes and North Central Districts. Contact W0KMH for details.

The February meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn East, St Paul, MN at 9AM on February 6, 1993.

Motion to adjourn was made by W0NNH, seconded by Mary, N0DXH, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Shel Mann, N0DRX, Secretary

The month of December produced our largest number of ARRL Memberships processed through MARAC for any month since we began this program. We are at the point where we are seeing repeated support from people who renewed through MARAC a year ago. Evidently the system works. Why aren't more people renewing through MARAC? Some of our membership belong to local radio clubs, which are also ARRL Affiliated Clubs and they renew through them. That is fine and I encourage your continuing to support your local club in those cases. Over the last few months, I have received 2 ARRL Memberships requesting the membership be charged to the individuals charge account. MARAC can not process a charge through Visa, Master Card, or any other charge account. We also do not get credit from the ARRL for those Memberships.

CW Info From KA1CLV

The following active cw county hunters have reported their confirmed cw totals as of 1 January, 1993. Looks like several have a chance to finish in 1993. A complete history, based on the inputs that have been received, will be available at the 1993 National Convention.

AA7CP 3074 WD4SIG 3000 N2CWG 2826 #2 KC5P
2013 KS7T 3074 N9DR 2976 KQ3S 2807 W0AWP 2010 #2
W9CRN 3072 W6NNV 2966 #2 W6HOR 2795 N9TN 1965
W0IZV 3068 K9WA 2958 W3FG 2754 W5OBT 1938
W1TEE 3056 N5DKW 2943 WD8OWA 2754 VE2EM 1824
W2CUE 3037 W4RKV 2924 W6CF 2675 KA5A 1171 #2
KA1CLV 3034 W8WVU 2894 K8KIR 2669 #2 WD3P 1082
W3EYF 3028 AA4HL 2874 WA6VJP 2557 #5 KD8HB
1068 #2 KA3MMM 3022 W8YL 2872 K2PF 2441 KE6US
1056 W1SBU 3018 W2CUK 2866 W9MYX 2403 #2
W3HQU 330 #5 W6ISQ 3013 W3XE 2857 W7HZL 2320
#2 W8PN 263 #2 WA9QNI 3011 W5HQL 2841 WD6CKT
2176

USA-CA ALL CW COUNTY HUNTERS HONOR ROLL AS OF 1 JANUARY 1993

1 W8RSW	12 WA6VJP	23 N0CYB	34 W2EMW
2 W2MEI	13 K3LKL	24 AK2H	35 WB2ABD
3 KA5A	14 W3HQU (#2)	25 W3HQU (#3)	36 K8CW
4 W1JTD	15 K7EQ	26 W2EZ	37 K8KIR
5 W3HQU	16 K8MW	27 KA4IFF	38 W0AWP
6 W3ARK	17 W6NNV	28 W9MYX	39 KN4Y
7 NGOT	18 N0CKC	29 W2RPZ	40 WA6VJP (#4)
8 W0OODS	19 WA6VJP (#2)	30 N6QA	41 W8PN
9 N2RT	20 W7GHT	31 WA6VJP (#3)	42 NW1O
10 W1AQE	21 W7HZL	32 W2FXA	43 W3DYA
11 N5QQ	22 NF0X	33 N2CWG	44 W3HQU (#4)

Address Changes, New Calls New Members

R2494 KD8MK 573 Boutell Grand Blanc MI 48439-8730
R2220 AB4QD New Zip Code 34481-4948
R2324 N5QOG 2710 33rde St Coos Bay OR 97420
R2459 W5RQO 1106 Lisenbot Ave Panama City FL 32401
R2232 WAS WD5INS NOW KF0YF
R2309 WAS KC4NDM NOW KQ4KI
R1569 KA9MQS 305A Northwestern Ct Bloomingdale IL 60108 (Du Page)
R1987 K0HQE 2340 E P True Pkwy Apt 31 West Des Moines IA 50265 (Polk)
R2225 WA3RTY Box 76 Pleasant Mount PA 18453-0076 (Wayne)
R2431 KQ8J 1662 Farnborough Dr Rochester Hills MI 48307-3548 (Oakland)
R219 W5VRA P O Box 10 221 N Main Martha OK 73556 (Jackson)
R292 K4ELK New Zip Code 34420-5259 (Marion)
R404 VE4QZ Box 250 Strathclair Manitoba Canada R0J 2C0
R775 N9TN RR 1 Box 418 Collins GA 30421-9725 (Tattnall)
R777 WB2GFE 101 Ferro Dr Sewell NJ 08080
R874 K7SN 4221 W Arby Ave Las Vegas NV 89118 (Clark)
R927 AC2J 16 John St Newark Valley NY 13811 (Tioga)
R995 N4EEL 5121 Maryview Dr Louisville KY 40216
R1012 VE3RN P O Box 449 204 Sunnybrae Ave Stroud Ontario Canada L0L 2M0
R1050 N9CHU New Zip Code 36949-9539
R1062 KB9CC Rt 1 Box 201B Park Falls WI 54552-9738 (Price)
R1165 N8BNI HC63 Box 7173 Snowflake AZ 85937-9727 (Navajo)
R1211 WB5CWI P O Box 974 Canton TX 75103-0974
R1935 KB1NQ 3536 Russell Blvd St Louis MO 63104-0485 (St Louis City)
R2156 K0BWN 101 Rainbow Circle #1291 Livingston TX 77351
R2341 N5MIV 6440 Everhart Apt 7H Corpus Christi TX 78413 (Nueces)

NEW MEMBERS

RR2531 KC6CNV Daniel Craig 200 Barcelona Circle Fullerton CA 92635 (Orange)
R2532 WA2PQE Stuart Liss 3101 Witter Gulch Rd Evergreen CO 80439 (Clear Creek)
R2533 KN4XP Mike Prevatt 1933 Roxie Ave Fayetteville NC 28304 (Cumberland)
R2534 N9bbw Bruce Hilstrom 530 Dietz St P O Box 176 Marengo IL 60152 (Mc Henry)
R2535 KB1PA Barry Porter 47 Erin Rd Stoughton MA 02072 (Norfolk)
R2536 N9JLT Larry Speyer 2529 Woodlawn Rd Northbrook IL 60062 (Cook)

R2537 KB4HBH Ollie Johnson P O Box 553 FlatRock NC 28731 (Henderson)
R2538 K3ZXP David Cretty Rt 2 Box 311 Laurel DE 19956 (Sussex)
R2539 N3FVP Jerry Crawford Rd #5 Box 112 Wellsboro PA 16901 (Tioga)
R2540 WA0WHL Chuck Moorehead 4325 Shrine Park Rd Leavenworth KS 66048 (Leavenworth)
R2541 N2MKE Charles Talbot 5823 Lakeview Dr Auburn NY 13021 (Cayuga)

Telephone Numbers For Reporting Apparent Amateur-To-Amateur Interference 24 Hours A Day

On Jan 20, 1993, K0AYO called the FCC Grand Island NE monitoring station to report the repeated "noise" interference that comes on frequency around 2000Z. This the "Work Shop", Vacuum" etc. The watch officer was very polite and took the report and called me back in about 15 minutes to report they had "DF" the noise to near Nashville, TN. He said it was more than likely amateur caused (as we knew) and that they would watch for it to try to get a better fix. He asked that we report it to them (any monitoring office) if it returned. However, he did suggest that for other cases which appear to be amateur to amateur interference, that the ARRL be called. He gave me the following name and phone numbers: Mr Rick Palm, 203-666-1541 (during normal working hours) and 203-666-1547 (after normal working hours). Lets give them a hand by reporting these continual harassment (or is that Hair assment)?

(Editors Note: While running Spell Check the word "Clinton" was shown as not in the dictionary for WordPerfect. I wonder how our new president would like THAT???)

NOTICE NOTICE

SOME OF YOU ARE STILL
USING THE INCORRECT ZIP
CODE FOR THE AWARDS
CHAIRMAN.

28331 IS CORRECT

MARAC AWARDS

Van Peterson, K4QFK, Awards Custodian
PO Box 48307, Cumberland, NC 28331

FEBRUARY 1993

I hope that all of you are starting the New Year "With a bang" and finding lots of counties that you need. I appreciate all of you that are now filling out **ONLY THE UPPER LEFT PORTION** of the LC-1 and LC-2 forms, but for those who still didn't get the message I am repeating it one more time.

Because of recent inquiries I also want to clarify the basic cost of all MARAC Awards; The cost is \$2. for Paid-up-members (This means the PERSON WHO IS APPLYING for the award, it doesn't matter who it is going to.) and \$3. for non-members or those who have not renewed their membership. Also when applying for the award it is FROM YOU and TO THE MOBILE or other station who gave you the county.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING
NEW SECOND-TIME-AROUND HOLDERS:

#148 JAN McLERNON NV6L	12/17/92
#149 BOB BEERS WB2HXZ	12/28/92
#150 HUGH WILLIAMS N7AKG	12/31/92

I AM ALSO VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT
LARRY HICKMAN KA9ZRW HAS BEEN AWARDED
THE "EXCELLENT OPERATOR" AWARD #12

This award is one that has to be applied for by a number of ones "Peers" and therefore is very highly regarded and in this case also much deserved. Congratulations Larry, Your continued efforts and patience are appreciated by all of us. This award is for Larry,s work as Net Control.

WASHINGTON AWARD: As you read in the last News Letter the Washington Award is temporarily not being processed because there is no award to issue! When the award has been finished I will announce the resumption of accepting of applications in the News Letter. If you have requested the application form for this award, I have noted your request and will send them accordingly when we have the award. For those who have already applied and been issued a # / seals, As soon as I have the completed certificate I will automatically issue those to you without any further action on your part. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

I will be attending the Mini at TEXOMA, March 5th and 6th and will bring Awards application forms with me. If you have a Last County Plaque that you would like me to hold and bring with me so that you can present it yourself at the Mini, make sure that I have your request NLT 20 February 1993. Looking forward to seeing you there. I will be available to answer any questions that you have after the Antenna Forum.

AWARDS COMMITTEE:

I am pleased to announce yet another member of the Awards Committee;
SOUTH CENTRAL - Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL

There will be a meeting of the Awards Committee at the Mini at Lake Texoma, If a sufficient number of the committee attend. The status of the current Awards program and "Loose ends" that need fixing will be the main topic of discussion. If you have concerns/suggestions/questions about the Awards program not relating to the actual processing of awards, address them to the Committee member in your district or your District Director.

ERRORS IN THE DATABASE:

As with any human endeavor, there are and probably will be some errors in the database. If you have a question concerning the sequence numbers, missing seals, etc. of your awards let me know and I will send you a printout of the information as I have it in the computer and together we can probably straighten it out, an SASE is appreciated. Put on 52 cents postage and I will fill any additional weight with LC slips.

NEW OR OTHER AWARDS:

I have received requests concerning adding MORE awards to this program or printing certificates for awards that they administer, etc. I have addressed those requests with the individuals concerned, but let me say publicly that I personally am not interested in creating a bunch of new awards, HOWEVER, I will abide by the decisions of the overall Awards Committee if and when they approve such a move. I would suggest that we already have a multitude of awards that you can attain and if you do all of them, or at least the ones that are practicable for you to attain then SIT BACK, THROW AWAY THOSE MRCs, FORGET ABOUT KEEPING UP WITH LISTS, and BECOME THE BEST NET CONTROL THAT WE HAVE EVER HAD. That should fill any extra time that you have, THANKS IN ADVANCE.

FIVE BAND COUNTIES AWARD:

The one award that I have had no requests for and that I have plenty of Certificates for is THE FIVE-BAND-COUNTIES AWARD. At Present this Award is issued for making contacts on the 80/75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. The basic certificate is issued for making at least 1500 contacts on ANY ONE BAND, with seals, etc for higher levels and endorsements for band and mode. Cost is \$10. for members, \$20. for non-members. List of contacts should be submitted in any of the available books or computer print-out. Complete details available.

GUIDE LINES

Issue 12 January 1992

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 These guidelines are provided by the **Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.** as a service to County Hunters. MARAC does not sponsor, provide net controls, or act as a governing body for any county hunting nets. Most county hunting nets are administered by independent county hunters following the guidelines given here, more or less, for the common good and efficiency of those attempting to make county contacts.

1.2 The procedures described here are recommended guidelines only and are not intended to define rules for net operation. These guidelines cannot cover all situations, therefore good judgement and common sense should always prevail. At all times, the procedures and net operation must be in full compliance with FCC rules.

2.0 THE COUNTY HUNTING PROCESS

2.1 GOALS Most serious County Hunters work toward the ultimate goal of making a confirmed contact with another Amateur in each of the approximately 3,076 counties in the United States. The basic award is issued by CQ Magazine at several achievement levels, starting at 500 confirmed counties. MARAC also issues a number of similar awards.

2.2 NET OPERATION - The achievement of the various awards is greatly facilitated through the use of a controlled net. Mobile stations that wish to run counties and fixed stations that wish to work counties, operate on the selected frequency.

2.3 NET PARTICIPANTS

1 **NET CONTROL STATION (NCS)** - A volunteer, preferably fixed station, who coordinates activities on the net in an orderly and controlled manner.

2 **RELAY STATIONS** - One or more fixed stations, that can hear signals from those parts of the country not heard by the NCS, and who will assist the NCS in the operation of the Net.

3 **MOBILE STATIONS** - Mobiles that have checked into the net for the primary purpose of running a county or county line. To qualify as a mobile, the station must be independent of external power supplies and antenna systems, i.e. must be capable of moving away without making any connections, disconnections, or changing the antenna in any way.

4 **WORKING STATIONS** - Any other stations on the net.

2.4 WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF CONTACTS - A most important step in the awards process is to obtain a written confirmation of the contact. Both CQ Magazine and most MARAC awards require written confirmations to be in the hands of the applicant at the time of award applications. Written confirmations are initiated by those needing the confirmations.

3.0 SSB NET OPERATING PROCEDURES

3.1 GENERAL - The following describes typical procedures used on the SSB County Hunting Nets. Actual procedures and techniques may vary according to the experience of the participants and the NCS.

3.2 PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES - The first priority of the nets is emergency traffic. The second priority is running mobiles in counties. These activities take priority over other net activity.

3.3 SSB OPERATING FREQUENCIES -

14,336 Khz is the frequency of the 20 Meter Mobile Emergency and County Hunters SSB Net. It is in operation every day.

7,238 Khz is primarily a calling frequency used by stations that cannot make contact on 20 meters..

3,865 Khz is used for net operation in the evenings of the winter months, especially during sunspot cycle lows.

21,338 Khz is often used for contacts on 15 meters.

28,336 Khz is often used for contacts on 10 meters.

3.4 MODE OF OPERATION - These procedures apply to two way SSB operation. CW contacts on the SSB Net are disruptive and are discouraged; moreover, cross-mode contacts are not valid for USA-CA or MARAC awards.

3.5 PRIVILEGES OF THE NET CONTROL STATION - The NCS and the relay station(s) **HAVE NO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES**. They are in the position of being able to initiate mobile contacts that are not available to other stations on the net; and they should be extremely careful not to abuse their position. THIS APPLIES TO QUERIES as well as county contacts. The control stations should neither initiate contacts with mobiles who are not running, nor query mobiles for special counties, unless the same privilege is extended to other net participants.

3.6 WARM-UP SESSION - County Hunters will begin to gather on the Net frequency prior to the formal start-up of the Net. A preliminary period is usually necessary to establish control of the frequency. County Hunters should never attempt to gain control of the frequency or cause interference if it is already in use. A nearby frequency should be selected temporarily until the net frequency is clear.

3.7 DETERMINING THE NET CONTROL STATION - THE NCS is always determined on a volunteer basis. The relative location of the NCS and the Relay stations is important. Net Control may be assumed for any length of time but a minimum of one or two hours helps to maintain continuity and reduces the loss of the time associated with changing the Net Control. The NCS should give some advance notice of when control will be relinquished; this alerts others, who may wish to assume NCS, so they can be prepared.

3.8 STARTING UP NET OPERATIONS - The new NCS should announce "This is W0ABC assuming Net Control of the Mobile Emergency and County Hunter's Net. My name is Joe and I'm located in Logan County, North Dakota." The NCS

may also make a short statement on the purpose of the net and tell how the listener can obtain more information about the net, stressing the emergency nature of the net and secondarily working counties.

For example, be careful about repeating this too often as it can become tiresome and wasteful of net time. The NCS will then ask for one or two stations to assist as Relay stations (Assistant Net Controls).

3.9 CALL FOR MOBILES - The NCS should periodically put out a call for new mobile check-ins. Mobiles are recognized and added to the list in the order in which they are heard. The NCS then should ask the Relay station to put out a call for new mobile check-ins. **The NCS should make a special effort** to give every mobile an opportunity to check in with everyone listening. Obvious newcomers should be briefly told how the list operates, & given an estimate of the wait involved before they will be called to run.

3.10 WHEN MOBILES MAY CHECK IN - Mobiles should check into the Net when the NCS calls for check-ins. Alternately, the mobile should break the NCS or Relay Station, **between mobile runs**, and ask to be checked in.

3.11 NCS PRIORITIES - The NCS should use the following priorities in handling the business of the net:

- 1 - Emergency traffic, of course.
- 2 - Assisting mobiles to run counties.
- 3 - Information breaks to announce a mobile running off net frequency. Such a mobile will have few, if any, contacts until an announcement is made on the net.
- 4 - Any request or query from a mobile. (Note - mobiles wanting a contact for county credit should try to get it by working the mobile what is running. Ask the NCS for a contact only when you can't hear the other mobile.)
- 5 - Queries for last counties or one of the last 50 in the county.
- 6 - Other queries and comments have no priority.

3.12 KEEPING A LIST OF MOBILES - One of the very important duties of the NCS is to keep a sequential list of mobiles in the order in which they should be run. Suggestions for maintaining the list are as follows:

- 1 - Start with a list of mobiles arranged in the order in which they will be called to run their counties. Announce the next two or three mobiles to run, whenever possible.
- 2 - When a mobile runs a county, move the call of that mobile from the beginning of the list to the end of the list.
- 3 - Add new mobile check-ins to the end of the list. They should never be placed ahead of mobiles who are already listed and waiting to run.
- 4 - If a mobile runs off net frequency leave his call in place on the list. Such a **off-net run does not count as a turn on the Net**.

5 - If a mobile does not respond when called, call him again in 20 or 30 minutes. After two or three no shows, remove his call from the list, unless he is a regular on the net and is known to be a working person in and out of the vehicle a lot. If that mobile shows up later, replace his call near the beginning of the list.

6 - Don't give list priority to mobiles on special trips or on county lines. Do be especially attentive to their needs for making contacts, moving off frequency, etc.

3.13 STARTING A MOBILE RUN - The NCS calls the mobile and determines that the mobile is ready to run a county. If the NCS doesn't have good copy on the mobile, the NCS may ask the Relay station or some other station with good copy to handle the run. Assuming that the NCS is handling the run, the NCS announces "We have W5XYZ who is going to run Cass County, Texas." The Relay station is then asked to repeat the announcement.

The NCS then starts the mobile run by --"W5XYZ this is W0ABC. Your starting time is 1530Z and you are 5 and 9 from me". The mobile then responds. The NCS acknowledges the report from the mobile and says "go ahead and run Cass County, Texas for the Net. Let me know when you are ready for relays" **THE NCS SHOULD NOT RELAY UNLESS THE MOBILE ASKS FOR RELAYS!**

3.14 THE MOBILE RUN - After receiving a starting time from the NCS, the Mobile has the option of putting out a general call or directed calls to selected stations or groups of stations. A typical call may be --"QRZ DX and mobiles only, W5XYZ mobile in Cass County, Texas".

The mobile acknowledges each calling station with the call sign and a signal report. The calling station, in turn, acknowledges the signal report and replies to the mobile with a signal report. The mobile acknowledges the returned report and puts out another "QRZ". The cycle is repeated until an exchange has been made with all the calling stations or until the allotted time has expired. **The mobile should repeat his/her call and county several times during the run.**

It is important that the county and mobile call sign be announced at frequent intervals. This will help to minimize the "what's the call / county" queries.

Do not use "bang bang" and "rifle-shot", or "speed limit" type of signal reports. Remember, there are always non-county hunters monitoring or just listening, some of them being influential officials, and we should be careful of the image we project.

3.15 REQUEST FOR RELAYS

1 - When the Mobile begins to have difficulty completing contacts or when the time limit is nearing, the **MOBILE SHOULD ASK FOR RELAYS**. The NCS may break in and offer to help with relays. The Mobile may also initiate the request for help. The proper time to make this request is a matter of judgement - it should be delayed as long as reasonable because direct contacts are usually completed more efficiently than relays.

2 - As the run progresses, the station running the mobile should be alert to those stations that are calling but not successful in making a contact. Be careful because many stations do not want relays. A relay list can be started if you know that the calling station will accept a relay. Otherwise list them only if they respond to the calls for relays.

A call is then put out for relays "I have W1KKP and W6RXY, anyone else needing a relay to W5XYZ mobile in Cass, Texas, call W4XRK". After the list is developed each station is individually relayed to the mobile. If time permits, additional lists may be taken from other parts of the country. Once relays have started, the mobile should make contact only with stations that are being relayed.

3 - The NCS should be sensitive to the desire for some stations to NOT be relayed. He should offer their calls for relay only after they respond to a call for relays.

4 - Double relays are sometimes necessary if the secondary relay station has poor copy on the mobile. They are easy if done properly. The secondary station calls for double relays and repeats the calls as he hears them. The primary station makes a list of the calls as they are repeated by the secondary station. When the list is complete, the primary station feeds the calls to the mobile, one at a time and the secondary station tells them to go.

5 - Requests for a "direct" contact during relays should be held until relays are completed; relay time should be used to aid those stations actually needing relays. Direct contacts can then be made on the mobile's last call, time permitting.

3.16 WHEN THE TIME LIMIT IS REACHED - Once a time limit has been established, it is important that it be strictly adhered to. The mobile and the station running the mobile share the responsibility for terminating the run when the time limit is reached. The Net is returned to the NCS at the end of the run.

The NCS should ensure that the number of "Last Calls" should be limited to one or two calls, particularly if the net is extremely busy.

3.17 MOVING A MOBILE OFF FREQUENCY - The NCS may ask for a volunteer station to move a mobile off the net frequency to complete a run or to make a run. Since many stations that can hear the mobile may not hear the NCS, a good technique is to have the mobile call for a station to move the mobile. These off-frequency runs should be handled with care. The need for them should be minimized by efficient operation of the net and a special effort must be exercised to be sure that the alternate frequency is available and reasonably clear.

Once it has been announced that a mobile station is moving to another frequency, DO NOT interrupt the net proceedings further to announce the frequency. Those who need the county will find the frequency without further help.

3.18 WHEN THE MOBILE RUNS OUT OF THE COUNTY - If the mobile has been running only for a short time, the NCS may elect to continue the run in the new county. In that event, the new county should be announced before proceeding.

3.19 SIGNING THE MOBILE OUT

1 - At the end of the run the station running the mobile checks the mobile out by "W5XYZ this is W6ARK. Your sign out time is 1540Z. What is your direction of travel?" The fixed station then announces, once more, the mobile's call, county and direction of travel and then returns the Net to the NCS. (If time permits, and at the discretion of the NCS, the mobile may be asked to make a last call with a limit on the number of contacts specified by the NCS.)

2 - After being signed out, the mobile should not respond to any further calls from stations desiring the county without the NCS's approval.

3.20 KEEPING THINGS MOVING - Some of the things that can be done to facilitate runs and improve the continuity of the net are:

1 - Don't stretch short runs.

2 - Don't milk the relays. Take one list and stop.

3 - Limit the number of tries that a station gets.

4 - Take relays from one direction only or only one list from each NCS.

5 - Don't take relays.

6 - Be firm about queries. Queries that have to be relayed by the NCS are particularly disruptive of the smooth flow of the net.

7 - Tell the mobile to not make a last call.

3.21 BREAKING STATIONS - The proper time to break the net depends upon the urgency of the information being sought or passed. The following priorities should be followed when breaking the net:

1 - An emergency is usually indicated by a double break or "**BREAK - BREAK**" and may be used at any time to break the net for a bona fide emergency. The NCS needs to be polite to strangers who use this unknowingly.

2 - A break to announce a mobile running off frequency is usually indicated by "Information Break". It is high priority and can be made during a mobile run but discretion should be used to use natural breakpoints in the run.

3 - Routine inquiries are usually indicated by "Break" or "Query", and should be handled between mobile runs, if at all. Such inquiries should be greatly limited during busy mobile periods - a more appropriate time would be during "Calls, Comments and Queries". (Also, see section 3.20.)

3.22 CALLS, COMMENTS AND QUERIES - During periods when there are no mobiles ready to run and Net activity is at a slow pace, the NCS can keep the frequency occupied by announcing "Any calls, comments or queries? W0ABC, Net Control".

This is a general invitation for any station to make a directed call to another station, make a general comment, ask a question, inquire about log information, announce planned trips, etc. When several stations respond, a call list is developed by the NCS in the same way as the mobile list. Stations are acknowledged in the order that they are heard and asked to make their calls. The NCS should limit the number of stations on the list so that a frequent check for mobiles can be made. A mobile wanting to run a county always takes priority over a 'Calls, Comments or Queries' list. The NCS should alternate with the Relay station in taking additional lists, if necessary.

3.23 KEEPING THE FREQUENCY CLEAR - This is primarily the responsibility of the NCS and the Relay stations. Unless so requested by the NCS, all other stations should refrain from attempting to clear the frequency. Any station attempting to clear QRM should keep in mind that he or she is a representative of the net and that his/ her actions reflect on the net. The rule is **UNFAILING COURTESY**. The other station's conduct has no bearing on ours; **WE MUST BE COURTEOUS AT ALL TIMES**.

1 - Don't tell the interfering station that it is on the net frequency unless it actually is. If he is 1 Khz below, tell him so. That will reduce argument and the cases of a station moving from 1 Khz below to 1 Khz above.

2 - In the case of deliberate interference, the only measure to be taken, after first asking the station to QSY, is to completely ignore the interference. This will be difficult, but, if left alone, the interfering station will usually cease.

On some occasions, the best answer is to temporarily move the Net away from the interference and then to move it back when the QRM clears up.

3 - Don't tell an inquiring station the frequency is in use unless it actually is. "In use" means it is being **transmitted** on and just listening does not constitute use. If the net goes into open session and net activity ceases then the frequency becomes available to all stations.

3.24 REQUEST FOR A NEW NET CONTROL- The active NCS should give some advance notice of his intent to give up the net, i.e., "I will run two more mobiles and then ask for a new net control". Then, when the NCS must give up the net, a call for a new NCS is made.

In the transition from one NCS to a new NCS, it is of utmost importance to maintain the continuity of Net operations and the rotating sequence of active mobiles. The departing NCS should pass a list of the active mobiles, their approximate locations, and the rotating sequence to the new NCS. The new NCS should maintain the previous mobile list but before proceeding, a call for additional mobiles should be made.

3.25 PUTTING THE NET INTO OPEN SESSION - If no one NCS volunteers, the NCS should announce his intention to place the net in open session. He should first read the list of mobiles, make an effort to get the first mobile station started, then announce that the net will be in open session and sign himself clear. After the mobile station has exchanged reports with the stations he can hear he should relinquish the frequency to the next mobile on the list, and so on.

The departing NCS should not impose operating criteria on the net. Leave with dignity.

4.0 CW NET OPERATING PROCEDURES

4.1 GENERAL - Many of the procedures on the CW Net are similar to those on the SSB Net. Therefore, this section will deal primarily with the differences. The typical operating speed is about 16-20 WPM but some stations will slow (QRS) down as needed. Also, the NCS should not transmit at speeds above 20 WPM. It is recommended that the word "NET" should be used as many times as possible, i.e. "THE NET HAS JUST RUN K5XYZ/M IN JONES, TX." This will let other stations know we are running a Net. **EMPHASIZE NET AT ALL TIMES.** The use of the identifier "CHN" as frequently as possible helps this.

4.2 FREQUENCIES AND TIMES - The CW Net meets at 14,066.5 Khz. It can be recognized by use of the "CHN" (County Hunter's Net) signature. 7,035 Khz is used as a calling frequency for stations that cannot make contact on 20 meters.

The Net is most active on holidays and weekends but is generally active nearly every day. It usually meets for at least an hour or two beginning at about 1400Z every day. Mobile trips are frequently announced and announcements are given as to the mobiles status. The net usually remains in session all day Saturday and Sunday, if there is mobile activity. It is often open longer during weekdays if a mobile is on a pre-announced trip.

4.3 MOST FREQUENTLY USED Q SIGNALS -

QNI - Used by the NCS to invite any station to check in or to break the net for information or a query.

QNO - Station is leaving the NET.

QRT - Station is closing down.

QNC - Please copy the following information

QSP - I relay or please relay.

QRV - Are you ready to copy, run, etc. or, I am ready.

QNZ - Please zero beat this frequency.

QRX - I will call you or I will stand by.

BK - Break the net for information or a query.

QSX - I will be listening.

QTA - Please cancel or unable to copy. (used when a station loses copy on the mobile while mobile while being relayed; same as "scratch it" on SSB.

NIL - Nothing is heard.

It is suggested that you obtain a copy of the ARRL QN signals and keep them posted in your vehicle for handy reference as you travel.

4.4 NET CONTROLS - The CW Net seldom has a lengthy list of mobiles. Therefore, the need for the duties of a formal NCS is somewhat reduced. The CW Net is somewhat more informal. ON occasion the net will run reasonably effectively without a recognized NCS.

It should be noted that the net runs considerably more efficiently with an NCS. All participants should assist the NCS when requested, and to take over as NCS when necessary.

4.5 KEEPING A LIST OF MOBILES. - Unlike the SSB net, a regular rotating list of mobiles is usually not kept on the CW net. Rather, each mobile checks in (QNI) with the NCS when in a new county and ready to run (QRV). At times there will be more than one mobile ready. The NCS will acknowledge the mobiles in the order they are heard, tell each what order they will run in, and inquire if they wish to wait their turn (QRX) or QSY off net frequency. When a mobile QSYs and runs off frequency, he is removed from the list of those waiting to run and should again QNI with the NCS when QRV in a different county.

Because of the fewer number of CW mobiles active on the net at any given time the 10-minute-per-run limitation is optional.

(During times of heavy mobile activity, such as convention time, the NCS may impose a time limit at his discretion.) However, the average run on CW requires less than 10 minutes to complete, unless it is an extremely rare county (Kalawao, 2nd District of AK, etc.)

Suggestions for conducting the net are:

- 1 - Make a temporary list of mobiles waiting to run (QRV).
- 2 - When a mobile runs a county, remove his call from the list.
- 3 - Add each new mobile check-in to the end of the waiting list, unless they choose to QSY and run off-frequency.
- 4 - Don't give list priority to mobiles on special trips or on county lines. Do be especially attentive to their needs for making contacts or moving off frequency, etc.

4.6 MOBILE CHECK-INS - The CW Net is quite informal and a lot of initiative rests with the mobile. The NCS will usually ask for mobile check-ins after each mobile run. Another method is to work a mobile that is running and tell he/she that you are QRV. A third choice, if a rag chew is in progress, is to send BK in a gap in the conversation. In any event, be sure to indicate that you are mobile.

Information breaks to announce a mobile running off the Net frequency or a mobile break-in should be given priority. **THAT MOBILE IS LEFT WITHOUT CONTACTS UNTIL SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE ON THE NET THAT A MOBILE IS QRV.**

Often when you tune to the Net frequency, you won't hear any net activity. Don't be discouraged; that can be because there is no NCS and/or no mobile running at the time. Just call "CHN de K5XYZ M.". If the net is active, someone will answer.

Follow the instructions given by that station. If none are given, go ahead and run your county. (The "CHN?" followed by the station's call is also used by fixed stations that want to inquire on the status of the Net.)

4.7 RUNNING A COUNTY - The procedure for running a county is essentially identical to that on the SSB Net. The NCS will announce the run, exchange signal reports with the mobile, and tell the mobile to go ahead (GA).

Before a mobile is to QSY off Net frequency to run, the NCS will announce his county and frequency. The NCS should then ask the other mobile waiting to run on net frequency if he needs the QSYer's county before he/she moves off frequency. Since both mobiles will be running at the same time on different frequencies, this gives them a chance to work each other for their county.)

The mobile then calls "CQ CHN de K5XYZ in Jones, TX QRV K". Both stations repeat the signal reports that they receive. At the end, the mobile can ask the NCS for any QSP. If there is no NCS the mobile can call "any QSP?" a couple of times and hope that someone steps in to help. At the end of the run, the mobile announces the next county and ABOUT how long it will be. If unsure of the next county or time interval, the mobile simply sends "QNI next". The NCS relays the announcement to the net.

On a QSY to other bands, either station can initiate the calling, although it is much better if the fixed station calls the mobile. In most cases the mobile will follow the same calling procedure used on the 20 Meter CHN.

4.8 RUNNING OFF THE NET FREQUENCY - To run off the Net frequency, the mobile announces that "K5XYZ/M will QSY up 2 (or down) for Smith County, Texas". The announcement should be repeated by the NCS or some other station on the Net. The mobile then moves (usually down) to the first clear frequency at least 2 khz away so as not to interfere with the Net. 14,070 Khz and above is usually busy with RTTY, AMTOR & Packet Modes. The NCS should recommend the mobile "QSY Down". Code practice is no longer held on 14,070 so that freq. can be used for a QSY if it is clear.

4.9 NET INFORMATION - It would help the net operation if a mobile when checking in would advise the NCS of his/her intent to either standby on the net freq. or QSY to another frequency / band. If the mobile is going to QSY then the band / freq. must be given to NCS so it can be announced. It would be helpful if the mobile would advise NCS of the band capabilities when checking in. The mobile also needs to let NCS know when the mobile is quitting for the day.

5.0 COUNTY HUNTING - GENERAL

5.1 RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE NCS - Each NCS should maintain a log of each mobile run during the period of his/her control. The log should include the date, starting time, mobile call sign, and the county and state.

5.2 RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE MOBILE - The mobile operator has an important responsibility to log each contact. The stations worked may be asking for a written confirmation of that contact. Some mobiles log with a tape recorder and later transfer the log to paper. Other mobiles

prefer to log directly on a paper log. Whatever the method, a written log is a necessity.

5.3 DOUBLE LOGGING - One form of double logging is acceptable. The so called 'team' contacts, wherein one person acknowledges a signal report and another returns a signal report while both amateur callsigns are logged will be accepted for purposes of MARAC Awards for contacts, except for the YL award.

The double logging of contacts on CW is NOT recommended.

Double logging of contacts made after April 1, 1985, are not acceptable for the USA-CA Award. So-called 'team contacts' wherein one person acknowledges a signal report and another returns a signal report while both amateur call signs are logged, are NOT valid for USA-CA; acceptable contact can be made with only one station at a time. (From USA-CA Rules & Program, Section B: CONDITIONS, PARAGRAPH 5.)

5.4 DEFINITION OF A COUNTY LINE -

1 - A county line is that legally defined boundary separating two governmental entities. In most cases, the best evidence of the location of a county line is the county marker permanently mounted beside a highway. The marker will be assumed to be correct for county hunting purposes, except for those at wet lines (see below).

2 - A county line may be run with credit being given for both of the counties. The requirement is that a part of the vehicle must be in each of the two counties.

3 - A "wet line" occurs when the two counties are separated by a body of water, such as a river or a lake. A wet line may NOT be run for county hunting credit. There are several reasons for this rule; one reason is that a vehicle can seldom be parked legally and safely on a wet line.

4 - Three and four county lines may NOT be run for county hunting credit. A reason for this rule is that a vehicle cannot be parked legally and safely on most three or four county points.

5.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STATIONS -

1 - When you don't know what's going on the Net, don't talk - listen! Never ask "WHAT'S THE COUNTY?". Wait for the frequent announcements. During the course of a typical run, the mobile's call sign and the county will be announced a number of times.

When a station is asking for a particular county, the NCS should allow the mobile to make that determination. If the net is busy, the NCS may ask both stations to QSY for a personal QSO.

2 - Assist the NCS only when help is requested. If the NCS asks for help, don't just start SENDING - state your call sign and wait for the NCS to recognize you.

3 - Never cross-talk under Net activity. Always direct comments to the NCS or Relay station at the proper time.

4 - When there is no NCS, the first station to pick up a mobile running should take the responsibility of announcing the mobile's county and state, helping with relays and announcing the next county, if any.

5 - Maintain a high degree of patience and restraint at all times. If complaints are in order because of poor operating practices, they should be aired later or via telephone or mail to those concerned. Never openly lose your temper on the Net.

6 - Do not use unusual phonetics. Cutesy or contrived phonetics tend to interrupt the smooth flow of the mobile's run while he attempts to mentally decipher the unusual words into the letters of a call sign.

7 - Do not attempt to make contact after the mobile has been signed out. In special circumstances, the NCS may allow you to make the contact if so requested. INTERRUPTION of the Net for routine contacts must be avoided.

8 - Do not ask a mobile to break the net to give you a contact for a county unless that county is your LAST in the state or one of your LAST 50 in the country. If you need a county not being run, offer to take the mobile off frequency so that all may have the opportunity to work the county.

9 - Assist the QSL Bureau and the awards custodian by providing valid addresses for new mobiles on the net.

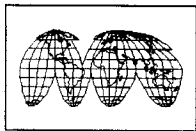
10 - Don't hold up the Net with trivial queries for the mobile. A trivial query is: "Are you going to Jones County? That's one of my last few in that corner of the state." Save the queries for last counties in a state or for one of the last 50 in the country.

11 - PAY YOUR DUES - DO YOUR SHARE - BY SERVING AS NCS, as Relay station, and/or by taking mobiles off frequency to run their counties.

12 - All stations active on the Net should acquaint themselves with the procedures to be used in their areas to help a mobile in trouble, i.e., telephone numbers of the State Police, etc. Most states have emergency numbers listed in the County Hunters Handbook. If you do acquire a new emergency number, be sure to pass it along to the Editor of the Handbook so it can be included in the next Edition.

13 - Stations on the Net should stand by during an emergency unless they are asked to help. The NCS and Relay station will ask for help if they need it.

14 - Be sure to thank the newcomers that pick up the net. Be careful not to criticize errors they might make because of being new to CHING.



AMATEUR ACHIEVEMENT COMPANY

Announcing:

The Native American Counties Award



Award plaque for contacting all 47 U.S. counties, the names of which are inspired by Native American subjects.

To apply, order your copy of:

The Native American Counties Award Record Book

- * Listing by state of applicable counties
- * Explanations of each county name
- * Space to log each contact
- * Illustrations, and more!

\$3.50 Postpaid.

NY residents please add sales tax.

Also:

The 48 Hour 100 Nation Award

Award plaque for contacting 100 different countries during a 48 hour period. Send for application and rules.

The United States Prefix Award

Award plaque for contacting 200 stations from the U.S., each one having a different callsign prefix. Send for application and rules.

License Display Certificate

Certificate stating that the bearer is authorized to operate an Amateur Radio Station. Comes with removable stickers for attaching the long copy of your license to the certificate. Brown engraving with black text. Beautiful, a good gift for those who have just been newly licensed.

\$2.00 Postpaid. Shipped flat with cardboard, or in mailing tube.



MARAC SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT MINI

ANNOUNCING: The 1993 South Central District Mini

DATES: March 4th, 5th and 6th, 1993

LOCATION: Lake Texoma Resort, Lake Texoma, Oklahoma - Near the TX-OK border on US 70
(Note: RV Space is available at the Resort)

DIRECTIONS: HWY US 70 13 miles West of US 75 at Durant, Oklahoma

ROOM RATE: All Rooms \$40.00 / Night + 5% Tax. A block of 60 rooms will be held until Feb. 1st.
After this date, rooms at the same rate AS AVAILABLE

RESERVATION: Write LAKE TEXOMA RESORT, Box 248; Kingston, OK 73439. Tel. (405) 564 - 2311

ACTIVITIES: Golf tourney Friday Morning. Choctaw Indian Bingo Friday Evening 5:30 PM. There will be a No Host Dinner at Sanfords Thursday or Friday evening if enough folks are interested. Indicate on Registration form how many to attend. (Note: If you missed the Potato Soup last year, you had best try to make it this year).

HOSPITALITY: Opens early Thursday, hosted by Joyce, WB9NUL

PRIZES: ALL PRIZE DONATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED

DINNER: Saturday Night Dinner, Buffet Style \$17.00/person. Includes choice of two meats, vegetables, salad, dessert and drink.

REGIS- TRATION: \$12.00 for OM/YL or \$9.00 single. Registration includes Name Tag, Group Photo and Drawing for any prizes

COMPLETE FORM BELOW AND SEND WITH
REGISTRATION FEE AND COST OF SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER TO:

JERRY L. WEAVER, WD5JGS
RR #1, BOX 267
DENISON, TEXAS 75020
Tel. (903) 463 - 3231

1993 SOUTHCENTRAL MINI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____

SPOUSE _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

REGISTRATION FEE _____

BANQUET... _____ (#) AT \$17.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

CHOCTAW BINGO # _____ SANFORDS Dinner # _____



MICHIGAN MINI

April 15-17, 1993

- Announcing:** The 1993 Michigan Mini!
- Dates:** April 15, 16, and 17, 1993.
- Location:** Country Hospitality Inn, 12260 James Street, Holland, Michigan. The Inn is located on U.S. Highway 31 on the North side of Holland. It is adjacent to a Manufacturer's Outlet Mall and there is a nice golf course nearby.
- Room Rate:** Rooms, including a continental breakfast are \$44.00 for a single and \$49.00 for a double, plus tax. (Whirlpool rooms are \$69.00 on Thursday and \$83.00 on Friday and Saturday.)
- Reservations:** Send the motel reservations to Country Hospitality Inn, P.O. Box 2153, Holland, Michigan 49422-2153 or telephone 616-396-6677 before March 22, 1993. Mention County Hunters or Ham Radio to obtain rates.
- Prizes:** Any prize donations will be appreciated.
- Raffle:** Again this year there will be a drawing on Saturday evening for a home brew mobile amplifier. A limited number of tickets will be available for a \$5 donation. You need not be present to win.
- Dinner:** A Saturday night dinner is \$15.00 per person including tax and tip.
- Registration:** \$12 for OM & YL or \$9 for single. Registration includes name tag and group photo. Mail registration, dinner and raffle donations to N8EMV, Paula Batema, 1567 66th Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408 as soon as possible. Please include the calls, names and USA-CA #'s of all who will be attending.

**The MICHIGAN GROUP hopes you will be
able to attend this year's Mini.**

1993 MICHIGAN MINI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM:

Name _____ Call _____ USA-CA _____

Spouse _____ Call _____ USA-CA _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Registration Fee _____

Banquet _____ (#) at \$15.00 _____

Raffle Donations _____ (#) _____

Total Enclosed _____

JULY 14, 15, 16, 17

Greetings from Seattle and the 1993 MARAC Convention Team.

We all look forward to seeing you in Seattle and assisting in your travels in any way possible.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me (Gene W7GVF) at 206-784-0581 or drop me an SASE and I will gather any information you desire.

The Convention will be held at The Double Tree Inn in the city of Tukwila. Tukwila is an Indian Name and the city is located between the cities of Seattle and Renton.

The Motel is located adjacent to "South Center" which is a large Mall with many shops and a "Nordstroms" along with many other department stores.

Tukwila is approximately 10 miles from metropolitan Seattle and approximately 5 miles from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The dates of the Convention are July 14 to July 17.

For those who may be interested, there is a Sightseeing excursion trip to Victoria B. C. planned for Tuesday July 13.

This is not an official part of the convention but we will be assisting in this trip.

The boat leaves Seattle in the morning and arrives in Victoria in time for sightseeing, tours and shopping in the "quaint old English City" of Victoria. The "Victoria Clipper then leaves Victoria and a delightful sunset cruise arriving in Seattle.

If you desire further information on this excursion drop me an SASE.

I would like to introduce you SOME of the members of the "THE TEAM" who are putting this convention together.

N0EYK	Kathleen	Treasurer
K7I00	Bill	Registration
N7TT	John	Entertainment
KD7G	Gene	Publicity
N7BKW	Dave	Prizes
K7AYC	Roger	Hospitality

Of Course our good XYL's are a great source of advice, assistance and counsel.

Several of us from would like to give some guidance and help in your itinerary as you make plans to come to the Emerald City.

The first one to step up with such "guidance" is our good friend Bill, K7I00.

Joyce and I would like to personally invite you to Seattle in '93. Should you get in the neighborhood of Grand Coulee Dam please consider stopping in either before or after the convention.

We have room enough to sleep two couples and a single, or four friendly singles and one anti-social type.

(first come - first served -

Caution, I refuse to grill a steak much past medium....)

We have enough room to park ten or so R. V.s.

Should you be interested in knowing which counties are 'hot' or would like suggestions as to route, let me know and I will offer information on our favorite paths through the northwest.

73, Bill and Joyce Moore
K7I00 & M.I.L

The County Line Road Runner 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 portability; 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 9112 Mesa AZ 85214** and request the Information Packet.

The Officers are:

PRES - Don Strom, WA0LKL; 11421 Johnson Cr, Bloomington MN 55437. **VP** - Bob Hanson, W0KMH; 9 Hillside Ct. Northfield MN. **SEC** - Shel Mann, N0DRX; 1618 West Pine St Stillwater MN 55082. **TREAS** - John Lyon, W9LHG; 2346 Dorothy Lane White Bear Lake MN 55110.

The Directors are:

HQ - Mary Mann, N0DXH; 1618 West Pine St Stillwater MN. 55082 Vern Olson, WA0RJ; 4024 NW 3rd St. Rochester MN 55091. Jerry Koon, W0NNH; 8326 Grenadier Ave So Cottage Grove MN 55016. **PACIFIC** - Gene Eggebraten, W7VGF; 9114 31st Ave. Northwest, Seattle, WA 98117. **NORTHEAST** - John Butler, WB2NFB; P O Box 941, Johnstown NY 12095. **GREAT LAKES** - John Sebastian, N8BGF; 758 Southwind Dr Fairfield OH 45014. **NORTH CENTRAL** - Carl Durnavich, KF9FU; 427 Calumet Blvd Harvey IL 60426. **SOUTHEAST** - Gene Tyree, N4ANV; 522 N. Sumac Circle Fayetteville, NC. 28304. **SOUTH CENTRAL** - Joyce Booth, WB9NUL; Rt 6 Box 748A Harlingen, TX 78552.

Other members of the Board include:

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Jim Whitaker, WB0TVL; 3019 O'Henry Rd Minneapolis MN 55429; **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** - Bob Dyson, K0AYO; 8943 S Overhill Circle De Soto KS 66018. **AWARDS CHAIRMAN** - Pete Peterson, K4QFK; P O Box 48307, Cumberland, NC. 28331.

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; Route 3 Box 400 Timmonsville, SC 29161. **USA-CA CUSTODIAN**; Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY; Box76, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453-0076. 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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