# **COUNTY LINE ROAD RUNNER**

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SSB Net 14.336; CW Net 14.056.5

Volume 24, Number 11	Februa	ry 1995
Club Officers	In this Issue:	
President: Joe Parsons, W5UJO, 1639 Evergreen Dr., Mesquite, TX	CQ-CW	3 .
75149-6341  Vice President: Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, R.R. 1–Box 267, Denison, TX	More on CW	3
75020-9613	Net Operating Tips	. 3
Secretary: Don Magers, KE5WL, 406 Cherry Park Dr., Sherman,	Silent Keys	4
TX 75090-6709  Treasurer: Diane Landreth, KI5TV, Rt. 2–Box 43B, Leonard, TX	New USA-CA Award Winners	4
75452-5036	Fifth Time Around Awards	4
	Planned Mobile Trip	4
Headquarters Directors	Counties Needed	4
Mike Carver, KG5UV, 2013 Eagle Nest Pass, Lewisville, TX	MARAC Awards	4
75067	County Hunter of the Year	4
Al Landreth, NA5F, Rt. 2-Box 43B, Leonard, TX 75452-5036	New Second Time Around Winners	5
Bill Peale, W5MW, 13432 Emeline St., Dallas, TX 75234	Awards Committee Activities	5
District Directors	QSL Manager Information	5
District Directors	Members Speak!	5
Great Lakes: John Sebastian, N8BGF, 758 Southwind Dr.,	Cycle vs. Hertz	6
Fairfield, OH 45014	Into the Bowels of an Explorer	7
North Central: Shel Mann, N0DRX, 1618 West Pine St., Stillwater, MN 55082	MARAC SSB Contest	7
North East: John Butler, WB2NFB, P.O. Box 941, Johnstown,	From the Secretary	8
NY 12095	ARRL Memberships	8
Pacific: Gene Eggebraten, W7GVF, 9114 31st Ave., NW, Seattle,	MARAC Information Packet	8
WA 98117  South Central: Joyce Booth, WB9NUL, Rt. 6-Box 748A,	Meeting Minutes	8
Harlingen, TX 78552	MARAC Financial Report	9
South East: Gene Tyree, N4ANV, 5222 Sumac Circle,	Address Changes, Corrections, New	
Fayetteville, NC 28304	Members	9
Other Members of the Board	Why Go for Sirloin when You Can Go	
Other Members of the board	to Hamburg?	10
Awards Chairman: Van "Pete" Peterson, K4QFK, P.O. Box	Pre-Convention, En Route Festivities	10
48307, Cumberland, NC 28331	Michigan Mini Information	10
Immediate Past President: Don Strom, WA0LKL, 11421 Johnson Circle, Bloomington, MN 55437	Upcoming Events	10
Newsletter Editor: Dick Sine, KB3WN, 100 Poplar St., Fort Mill,	The Last Word	10
SC 29715-1824	Pacific District Mini information	11
Deadline for next Newsletter:	South Central District Mini information	12
February 20, 1995		

## CQ-CW by NF0X

I knew I was going to be treated to a good one the moment I saw Flattop struggling across the gully. The temperature was about 0F so Flattop was wearing his shoes. He bounded up the steps two at a time, a remarkable feat for a bowling ball with hair. With only the slightest hint of a knock he entered, tracking snow across my new carpet, settled himself in the big chair in front of the stove, kicked off his shoes and held his feet up to the stove.

"You ain't gonna believe this." He must have been grinning because the whiskers around his mouth moved. "Try me," I said, as I placed a suitable libation in his outstretched hand. "But, don't be stirring up the air too much with them feet.."

"You know old Hump Hogback down the road what jest upgraded to General and is now madly working the CH SSB Nets?" he opened. "Well yesterdiddy the CW Net being a bit slow I was reading the mail on the 40M SSB Net and heard this feller ask a mobile what was running the next county over if he could get HOGWASH County for his last in the state. Well, the mobile told him I lived in HOGWASH and would be glad to give it to him on CW. Welsir, the feller needed it almost went into hysterics!"

Flattop wiped the foam from his whiskers and continued:
"Oh heavens!' the feller said that needed it, 'I cain't even send
CW let alone read it.!' Well, old Hump chimed right in and said
he would get it for him mobile. Welsir, I guess he was in such a
hurry that he grabbed his \$200 mic complete with it's sheepskin
case and without bothering to sit his coffee cup down made a
mad dash for his mobile.

"Now the lady what lives across the road from Hump saw what happened next. Old Hump placed the coffee cup and the mic on top of the mobile while he unlocked the door, started the vehicle and spun off in a cloud of dust! The lady, seeing the cup and sheepskin case still on top of the vehicle and anxious to do her good deed for the day promptly gave chase, honking her horn to get his attention. So that was the picture as they came roaring by my OTH.

"Thinking something seriously wrong, I immediately fell in behind the lady also honking my horn and flashing my lights. HONK HONK HONK AUGUUUAA AUGUUUAA AUGUUUAA AUGUUUAA AUGUUUAA AUGUUUAA (my horn was swiped from a junked Model A). Well, all this attention upset old Hump especially after it continued after he put forth an obscene gesture. He slammed on his brakes, skidded to a halt, tries to jump out of his mobile without removing the seat belt, yelling 'What?! What?! What?! What the coffee cup and case wit mic enclosed goes sliding down the length of the hood, making a sound akin to chalk on a blackboard, lands 20 feet in front of his mobile, the mic and case landing in the coffee puddle. Mission accomplished, the lady pulls slowly but smiling, waving and mouthing 'Have a Nice Day!' I pulled in front of Hump to see if I could be of assistance. Well, the lady didn't run over the mid. No sir, she sure didn't," Flattop paused for effect.

"No sir she was a real lady. She did not run over his mic. I did." Flattop smiled and wiggled his toes. I have never seen Flattop so contented.

Here in the Midwest on 20 props are like a vertical, equally poor in all directions. However, 40M has been outstanding and has saved many from going completely bonkers waiting for a contact. Mobiles who do not have 40M capability are really missing the boat. Many 40M QSOs can be had early in the

morning before 20M opens and late in the evening after 20 closes. If you like to hit the road early before 20 opens, like I do, let the net know you will be on 40 until 20 opens. On CW you don't have to contend with the foreign broadcast as you do on SSB early in the morning and late in the evening. Speaking of 40M CW, some mobiles evidently are not aware that the basic working freq. for 40CW is 7.039.5. Some still go to 7.035. If you say you are QSYing to 40 it is assumed you will go to 7.039.5 plus/minus QRM. If you are not going to 7.039.5, state where you are going.

### **Operating Hints:**

When running mobile, throw out your call and county after every few contacts. The mobile should give his call and county at least three times during the run. If you want a good example, listen to W3DYA/M, KA3MMM/M, KN4Y/M, WA3QNT/M or W1TEE/M. You never have to guess who it is or where they are running. Equally important is the NC announcing frequently who it is and where they are when taking QSP. Listing to WA6VJP. I have never known him to vary from his format when taking relays. Solid. Explicit. No nonsense. Complete information.

When to or more mobile are on the waiting list and are QSX, don't muddy the waters by long queries to the active mobile. Consider the position of the mobiles waiting to run.

Most mobiles on a county line are eager to move on and will do so as soon as the run is completed. Personally, when the net control asks for me next, I am moving. Every effort should be made to work the mobile without being a "latecomer."

# More on CW by K1ER

Right after I worked VP8GSP on 17M CW (January 8), I decided to go up (e.g., 9,000 feet above sea level) and provide the Gilpin/Boulder, CO, line and I didn't want to pull the KC Keyer off the DXing station. So, for the first time in over 40 years(!), I got a WWII J38 straight key out of the box, the version with a clip to hold it to your leg. It's just remarkable how fast skills once held disappear, but a few people figured out what I was sending. I didn't know I could send so poorly ... oh well ... a J38 is better than touching wires together.—KIER

# Net Operating Tips by W4RKV

When a mobile is running his county and I am NCS, I make every effort to let him complete his run without undue interruptions. Some mobiles, in fact, tend to get downright hostile if they have to break their run for some trivial announcement. Over the years, I've heard a few terminate their run and sign themselves out when this happens. All of us, whether NCS or not, should exercise good judgment when deciding to interrupt a mobile during his run.

In my opinion, there are only a few valid reasons for such an interruption: 1) Emergencies, of course; 2) Info on mobiles running off-frequency; 3) Last county contacts with another mobile? This is a gray area, with a lot of differing opinions on both sides. For myself, I see a big difference between the last in Texas (254 counties) and the last in Delaware (only three counties); 4) To move a county line? Another gray area. Perhaps the mobile should be given extra time if we do interrupt him.

### 4 / The County Line Road Runner

Some of the reasons I would NOT interrupt a mobile's run include: to move another mobile; info about future mobile trips; general queries about other calls, counties run, times, etc.; specific queries to this mobile, unless they meet published net guidelines (last in state or one of last 50 in the country); to tell him that "so and so is calling you" unless the mobile has been looking for that specific station; or for any other reason that could reasonably wait until after the mobile's run.

## Silent Keys

With sorrow, we announce the recent death of the following MARAC members:

W4FRL, Leo F. Servary WB5AKI, Kenneth L. Frank, USA-CA 135 W7NEJ, John D. Belenski

### **New USA-CA Award Winners**

Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY, CQ columnist and administrator of the USA-CA program, has announced the following numbers:

850, J.P. "Phil" Bretz, KE2EA, December 22, 1994

851, Walt Ordway, K1DFO, December 22, 1994

852, Eleanor "Bunny" Cyr, N1FJR, December 23, 1994

853, William R. Woodle, W4XQ, December 23, 1994

854, Eleanor Morris, KD4NFE, January 8, 1995 855, Jack Crutchfield, KB0FQC, January 8, 1995

Norm also reported that the March CQ will contain a revision of the USA-CA rules, which will be made available to *The County Line Road Runner* afterwards.

### Fifth Time Around Award

Mary Carter, NV4Z, is the latest winner of the Fifth Time Around Award, administered and awarded by The B&B Shop. The award, dated December 23, 1994, is endorsed All SSB, Mixed Bands. Mary's award is No. 17.

## Planned Mobile Trip

John, K1ER, and XYL Joan are planning a mobile trip on their way to the DX convention at Visalia, CA, in April. Likely travel is from April 4-25, with most time spent in WA and CA. Order of states will be CO, WY, MT, ID, WA, CA, NV, UT, CO. John requests that anyone with specific county needs contact him quickly.

He also will be driving to the Dayton HamVention this year, with the order of states to be CO, NE, IA, IL, IN, OH, IN, IL, MO, KS, CO. This will be a different route than in 1994. He will have key and mic on both trips.

#### Counties Needed ...

### ... for USA-CA

K5DKW: Calhoun, MS; Boyd, Brown, Kimbell, Phelps, NE; Hyde, Mitchell, NC; Eddy, McIntosh, ND; Cimarron, OK; Sumter, SC; Chittendon, Orleans, VT; Big Horn, WY.

WA6OKQ (phone collect, 510-792-7394): Clay, Covington, Perry, AL; Custer, CO; Brantley, Merriweather, Pierce, GA; Kendall, IL; Montgomery, IN; Haskell, Rooks, KS; Dodge,

Winona, MN; Clay, Graham, Jackson, NC; Sioux, ND; Hughes, OK; Dewey, Mellette, Tripp, SD; Hancock, Hawkins, Washington, TN; Clallam, WA.

#### ... for other awards

WU4S (Bingo): Graham, Greenlee, AZ; Mineral, Sedgwick, CO; Escambia, Sumter, FL; Boone, Fayette, IL; Mitchell, Pocahontas, Sac, IA; Graham, Ottawa, KS; West Feliciana, LA; Caroline, Talbot, MD; Baraga, MI; Renville, Rock, MN; Morgan, Stoddard, Stone, MO; Box Butte, Thurston, NE; Douglas, NV; Craig, Pawnee, OK; Tillamook, OR; Lake, Minnehaha, Roberts, SD; Grainger, Jackson, Meigs, TN; Gaines, Motley, Panola, Swisher, TX.

WB9YCO (second time ... make sure he is on frequency before making any side trips): Humboldt, CA; Pike, IL; Crawford, Floyd, Howard, Kossuth, Mitchell, Monroe, Ringgold, IA; Crawford, Grant, Jewell, Woodson, KS; Clark, KY; Atchison, Lewis, Macon, Marion, Moniteau, Pulaski, Sullivan, MO; Dawson, Wibaux, MT; Boone, Box, Butte, Dixon, Kearney, Morrill, Otoe, Pawnee, NE; Jefferson, OR; Cavalier, McKenzie, Walsh, ND; Day, SD; Dekalb, Montgomery, TN; Dickenson, VA; Whitman, Yakima. WA: Washakie. WY.

### MARAC Awards

# Van Peterson, K4QFK, Awards Custodian PO Box 48307, Cumberland, NC 28331-0307

I hope all of you had wonderful holidays with your families and that you will have much success and happiness throughout the remainder of the year.

THERE ARE A FEW THING THAT I WANT YOU TO DO FOR ME SO THAT I MAY DO A BETTER JOB FOR YOU:

1. Please **DO NOT** send me Cash! If you do I will only have to write a check for you and send to the Bank in Texas. **This** includes money for postage, making copies, etc. **ALL** Funds received by me must be deposited in the MARAC general fund account in Texas.

- 2. Please **DO NOT** send me applications for LC-1, LC-2 or LC-3 on **Copies** of these forms. They will not fit the printer and will be returned to you. Please **DO** feel free to copy any other of the Awards application forms on 8 1/2" X 11" paper and use them for applying for the awards such as Mobile Achievement, Cliff Corne, Associate, etc.
- When you move, Please let me know your new address ASAP. Our mail is not forwarded and will result in delays and additional costs to MARAC.
- 4. Please have patience with the return of check that you have sent to me, I usually mail deposits only once a month and if the timing is off with the banks statements this can result in delays in you getting back your canceled checks.

### County Hunter of the Year

The past year has gone by at warp speed and here it is, time district directors again. Please take time to evaluate and reward those who deserve this honor by sending your nominations in right away. The timing is critical on this issue because there is much work to be done by the Awards committee before a ballot is enclosed with the MAY Newsletter. Please do not put this off

as I am asking the District Directors to have the nominations in to me no later than March 20.

Information needed with each nomination is included in the Awards Information Packet.

### New Second Time Around Holders

#174 John Kray

KA2CNG

12/31/94

#175 Bill Baxter

N7OTR 01/03/95

### Awards Committee Actions:

The Awards Committee is currently considering the following actions, please send your comments, suggestions, etc to your Awards Committee Representative no later than February 28.

1. The proposed new MARAC YL/OM Team Award (Proposed rules were published in October 94 Newsletter)

 Change the requirements for the basic Karl Adkins Net Control Award Certificate from 200 hours to 50 hours, with endorsements for 100, 200, 400, 600 and 800 hours. MARAC Special Plaque for 1,000 hours and "Bars" for 2,000, 3,000, etc.

3. Again a proposal has been received to upgrade the requirements for the Jack Scroggins Memorial Award by increasing the number required for the basic certificate as well as the other levels to better reflect the current number of holders of the 2nd Time Around Award that could be worked. (25 with red, blue, gold, second gold for 50, 75, 100 and 150)

4. I will be asking the Board to approve the revision of the Union County and USA Counties Awards to eliminate the "CW County Hunters Net" wording and change them to MARAC Awards. Also for formal approval to "Create" a new Second Time Around Award Certificate.

### Other News

Because of work requirements it is unlikely that I will be attending the mini in Kansas this year but will try to have some awards there to be presented.

I just found out a week ago that I will be attending an electronic maintenance course in Rock Island, IL, for two weeks starting the January 23. I will be driving and I will take the computer so that I can process any awards received but not processed as of the date I leave. By the time you read this I will have returned and will only have the mail received between January 22 and February 3 to process.

I will be attending the HamVention in Dayton, OH, this year, April 28-30. There will be a County Hunter's Forum on Friday afternoon and we usually get together for a buffet dinner after that. If you haven't been to Dayton you should plan to attend, BUT make your reservations early! If you plan to attend Dayton and want me to bring something for you, please let me know no later than March 31. For details about County Hunter activities at Dayton, contact John Sebastian, N8BGF.

# **QSL Manager Info**

John, K1ER reports that he has been assured that logs for NJ0C (SK) were picked up by WB2V and shipped to John. Mrs. Baker has been forwarding all the MRC mail to K1ER, also. Those needing a verified MRC from NJ0C's log should forward the material to K1ER.

## Members Speak!

Ed, W5ILR—I hope all of you will excuse the informality of this method of correspondence. I think those of you who sent Christmas cards and inquired as to my health without knowing any of the details. To make a long story short: on my return from LA to Houston, my daughter and wife insisted I see a doctor about the swelling in my legs. The doctor immediately put me in the hospital for tests. I would up having an emergency prostate operation. Tests after the operation revealed a cancer that showed no spread to other organs or bones. The doctor is optimistic that it can be controlled, if not cured completely, I began chemotherapy treatment January 27. Again, your expressions of concern are greatly appreciated. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Bill, K7IOO—KF9FU de K7IOO: Hello Carl. I read with interest and concern your suggestion that a "Western" 40M net be established. A net on 40 centered in the west is unlikely to help me to finish up Illinois. What will help is if the mobiles, after their 40M run, would also run the county(ies) on 20M. I would ask the 40M net controls to encourage mobiles not to forget the folks out west.

Speaking of mobiles ... Is it really necessary for a mobile to ask to be moved? Of course not! Save the net some time, mobiles, and move yourself. An added benefit for the mobile is that logging is greatly reduced.

Sonny, W5VDW—After all of the "Operating Tips" that have been offered by Mitch Clemons, W4RKV, over the past decade, I look in astonishment at the current state of affairs on the 20M portion of the Mobile Emergency and County Hunters' Net. Surely the suggestions made are not outside the realm of "reasonable operating practices" and "band conditions" can not be responsible for the nature of disorderly practices that occur today! It appears to me that a bit of self-examination on the part of all of us is necessary.

Several days ago, I heard a complaint that "the Net is not as friendly as it used to be." I don't think that it is a matter of "friendliness," but more likely a matter of growth and a tendency to be highly competitive as though we were running a contest. These two conditions encourage a showing of gross disregard for others. Certainly, the Net is not intended as a rag-chew operation as it may have been back in its infancy, but it has fast become that sort of operation during recent months. Consider that during the 15 years between the issue of USA-CA #1 in 1965 and the end of 1979, 262 USA-CA numbers had been issued. In the 15 years between 1980 and the end of 1994, an additional 590 USA-CA numbers were issued. That type of growth is like moving from a community of 1000 to one of 850,000 and looking for an acquaintance at the turn of each corner. Friendliness is doing to others as you would have them do to you. For example, observe the common courtesies, such as, eliminating the practices of ratchet-jawing, transmitting when not invited to do so, interrupting a mobile station's run with unnecessary "comments" and "queries," insisting on listing counties needed at every exchange of signal report, the practice of calling for assistance in completing missing log information during active net operation and, especially, the ratchet-jawing about the deplorable conditions which exist on the band today (many of use have been through the sun-spot cycle four or five times, so it is a condition that we have learned to accept and look forward to some improvement).

We often hear long dissertations about the prominence of "2/

2" reports. For the most part, these remarks question whether either station is actually receiving the report and infer a lack of integrity on the part of the stations involved. Others speak of the "2/2" report as being something out of the ordinary and question its origin. I hear so-called "old-timers" speculate on the "origin" of the reporting procedure and stand in awe that one could have any grade of operating license above the "novice" that doesn't know the RST signal reporting system. I refer those that don't know to the ARRL Handbook, the ARRL Operating Manual and to operating guides issued by both the ARRL and CQ Magazine. Many of our county hunters use the 2/2 when a 5/2 would probably be more accurate, but it is certainly more readily received than a 5/2 in weak signal conditions and it saves time for others to make contacts on the Net - that, too, is being "friendly" and should not be the subject of anyone's ridicule or condemnation. Those who choose to question the integrity of others may need to look at their own behavioral patterns!!

There also seems to be a growing attitude that the "rules for all should be my method of operation regardless of what other guidelines may be issued." For many years, most of us accepted the guidelines which were distributed at the MARAC conventions. As additional MARAC members (and non-members) came along, there developed an attitude on the part of some that these guidelines were neither mandatory nor reasonable. Others who had not attended the conventions and did not have access to the published guidelines, or to the myriad discussions occurring at the conventions, choose to devise their own methods of operation. Therefore, a "standard" of operation began to disappear and one does not know what to expect in the way of a net operation. Some net control stations prefer to work without an assistant, others work without an assistant and then ask assistance from "someone"! "Someone" turns out to be several stations responding and transmitting at the same time with a din of noise which can be understood by no one. Again, I say, "all of us need to reexamine our operating practices and make changes for the good of the Net!"

Carl, KF9FU-On January 4, a member of Ralph, WB4FFV's family contacted the 40M Mobile and Emergency County Hunter's Net with urgent emergency traffic. Ralph's mother had passed away and they were unable to locate him, only knowing he was in the Denver area. The actions of all our nets was overwhelming. Within 15 minutes 16 emergency and traffic nets were advised, as well as the Colorado CB React group, all three county nets. Joe, W5UJO located the license number and truck description when Ralph's family had problems, and Mike, KG0DS was waiting to put that data on a Colorado Police Net. In the midst of the blitz, Wayne, AA4HD confirmed the message with Ralph on the 20M net. Within about an hour, the emergency was resolved and the needle in the haystack located. To some others who feel county hunters waste time-read the news. Ralph contacted W5UJO to express appreciation to all concerned and Ralph's family was simply ecstatic with our help. Contributing to the efforts were probably more than I know, but we thank W5UJO, AA4HD, KG0DS, N0VWD, NT9V, NV4Z, WA6VJP, KZ2P, K1ER, KA9ZRW, and KB6ZX. We say our purpose is to assist in emergencies-in this case it was fulfilled. I ask others to share the emergencies they witnessed or know of on the country nets for the Roadrunner over the years.

John, K1ER—I would like to thank each and every one of the 260 plus county hunters that made it possible for me to receive my USA-CA in under five years. I started in January 1990 with zero contacts and completed December 8, 1994, when N7OTR

gave me Wayne, KY, for the last. To name everyone would be impossible but each one had a part in this wonderful activity. Yes, county hunting is addictive and I'm anxious to do it all over again. I am working on Bingo and that will be done soon, I hope. Keen up the good work and Thanks Again!!!

Rick, AISP.—Thanks to all who followed my trip and assisted me in running all the Arkansas counties between December 6-20. A total of 4,685 contacts were made with around 575 different stations. The special prizes will be sent to Mary, NV4Z for SSB contacts in all 75 counties and George, K5HT for CW contacts in 73 counties. After 2,788 miles and that number of contacts, Arkansas should be dented in a few "coloring books." Due to costs, the plan for a special QSL card has been scratched. Looking forward to new trips in 1995.

Paul, AA2AV—Thanks to all my fellow CW County Hunters who have been helping me on my "impossible dream" for my second time around—trying to be the first every to work them all CW/QRP. In spite of lousy propagation, having to take the tower down for a month this summer, and being away on a two-week research trip back to Vietnam. I am now down to 205, but, damn, they are getting hard! I am in the classroom at Montclair State University on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but fortunately I have moved the campus ham radio station into the adjoining office. It pays to be a tenured full professor and have my priorities straight! Most other days I am at home working in my study/shack and monitoring the 14.056.5 net.

For those going mobile, my states of the greatest need are NE, 23; GA, 18; ND and SD, 11 each; WI, 10, and MN and MT, eight each. But please don't make any special trips. With the daily solar flux numbers less than 80 and still needing two in HI (Hawaii and Kauai) and one in AK (1st District), I don't suppose my impossible dream will be realized before Cycle 23 develops. For contacts in some of the close-in counties, I try to monitor the CW/QRP frequencies on 40M (7.040) and 80M (3.56) as well as our regular CW net on 20M.

Although there are a lot fewer CW than SSB mobilers, these folks are excellent operators and have almost miraculously been able to copy my four-watt Ten-Tec Argonaut 535 (solar powered) signal. My "secret weapon" is WA6VIP, who is the most dedicated CHer I have ever met. We enjoy a good spirit of camaraderie chasing counties via dots and dashes and are willing to adjust to anyone's CW speed. It is great practice for those going for their Extra Class. After all, if you can copy my wimpy four watts amidst the QRM and QRN, you can copy anyone!

P.S.: Be sure to circle July 5-9 on our calendar to join us for MARAC's annual convention at the Holiday Inn in Hamburg, NY

# Cycle vs. Hertz by Jack Carr, NV9S

Several years ago, when "hertz" was used to replace "cycle" in radio wave frequency designations, there was some displeasure among the old timers. (We old timers don't like to see *any* changes.)

I think the problem was that a specific word was used to replace a non-specific word. "Cycle" can be denotative and connotative. "Cycle" denotes something that has a rhythmic patters—be it a washing machine or a frequency. Used specifically, "cycle" connotes the word it is being used with, e.g., kilocycle, moon cycle.

### February 1995

We would not think of saying, "The washing machine is in the rinse hertz" or "The moon is in its waning hertz." We would, however, feel comfortable using the word "cycle" in the two sentences above because "cycle" means periodic pattern. "Cycle" can also be a verb. Something is cycling; something was cycled. Something cannot be hertzing or re-hertzed.

In all fairness to the purists, I must point out that "hertz" refers to cycles per second. (1 hz=1cps) By saying, "One thousand kilohertz," we are saying, "One thousand kilohertz," we are saying, "One thousand kilocycles per second." I can't think of any situation in which one would say, "One thousand kilocycles per hour" when talking about electromagnetic waves. This might be why the OT'ers think that it was like putting bumper guards on bumpers to substitute "hertz" for

"cycle."

As I said, we old timers like to see things last. When I first read that our Sun was good for only about 12 billion more years, I feel kind of sad.—reprinted from *Newswave*, publication of the DuPage Amateur Radio Club.

# Into the Bowels of an Explorer by Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P

I recently purchased a 1994 Ford Explorer and, after installing a TS50S in same, I experienced S7 "white noise." I tried everything I could to correct it, but to no avail. I finally spoke to Gene, N4ANV, who had interference problems with his Lincoln. He gave me names and hone numbers of two Ford engineers.

My problem was caused by the electric fuel pump. To test to see if you have the same problem, do the following:

 Install the radio, tune it to any band (I used 20M) and try a very quiet frequency. I don't think it matters what frequency you are on, since the noise is very broad-banded.

Close the door, so you won't have interference from the door-open alarm.

3) While watching the S-meter, turn the ignition switch to "on," but do not start the car. If you see the S-meter deflect to right (with a burst of noise) for about one second, this is the fuel pump pressurizing the system. You have the problem.

As I noted before, this is *not* a pulse or ignition noise, but a rushing "white noise."

The remedy for this problem is to install a filter on the electronic fuel pump. This is a warranty repair, so if your vehicle is still under the original (or extended) warranty it will cost you nothing. My local dealer was not aware of the warranty repair and I had to get them to call the Ford engineer in Michigan.

The filter reduced my noise level from a constant S7 to an S2.

The proper procedure is to go to your Ford dealer first. Let the service manager know that this is a warranty service and refer to Technical Service bulletin #93-15-6. The filter part is FP-F1PZ18B925A. Be sure to have them place the ground as close to the filter as possible (and not extend it to the front of the car as in the original installation).

If the dealer or service manager needs authorization or has any questions, have him call Pat Quinn, WD8/DZ at (313) 323-2014. Pat is the Ford engineer who helped me. It is probably a good idea if you can Pat first and pave the way.

I also spoke with Steve Sageman, WQ8T (313) 323-9511. Steve handles other RFI complaints. So if you have any other problems, maybe Steve can help. We can all thank Gene, N4ANV for this information. If I can be of any help, please give me a call.

# **MARAC County Hunters SSB Contest**

What has the flurry of Field Day and the excitement of rare DX? What makes folks drive around the country in rain, sleet, snow or blistering heat? Why do otherwise normal folks stay up half the night listening to the bands' last breath of activity? The answer is the MARAC County Hunters SSB Context.

In conjunction with its other activities, MARAC has sponsored an SSB County Hunters each of the past 23 years. The goal of the contest is to work as many hams in as many different counties as possible within the contest time period. The contest activity serves several purposes for the MARAC membership and the amateur community as a whole.

 The SSB contest provides an opportunity to work as many different counties in a short period of time. Past contestants have worked as many as 900 counties during a single contest.

a 2) The contest focuses the attention of even casual operators and contesters on the sports of "county hunting." In this way, more hams become interested in county hunting and MARAC also gains additional members to support its goals and activities.

3) The contest promotes county hunting activity on the five primary active HF bands. While county hunting activity flourishes daily on 14.336 Mbz., often times stations who operate only on (or are limited to) other HF bands must search diligently for county hunting activity. DX stations seeking clear frequencies than 20 meters and U.S./Canadian stations seeking short skip counties benefit most from use of the entire HF spectrum.

4) The contest provides an opportunity for MARAC members and hams worldwide to compete in the true spirit of ham radio for awards including both plaques and certificates.

5) The contest promotes activity in less populated (rarer) counties for contacts and confirmations. Individual mobile stations operating in the contest have given out contacts for as many as 70 counties during a single contest period.

6) The contest provides an opportunity for just plain fun! Whether you are a veteran contester or someone who has never participated in a contest, the MARAC County Hunters SSB Contest is an exciting event to mark on your calendar every spring. Mark it down. Plan to participate. Whether you score one or 1,000,000 points, the fun is in each contact. The only contacts that are not fun are the ones you don't make by not participating. Contesters seek contact with every county. You have heard the old saying that "Every county is rare until you work it." Well, EVERY county is RARE! Every contact counts. — WOOWY

### Contest Information

*Operating period:* 0000z Saturday, April 8, to 2400z Sunday, April 9, 1995.

Rules: Fixed stations may be worked only once on each band. Mobiles may be worked each time they change counties or band. Mobiles operating on county lines count as one contact, but the receiving station may count each county as a separate multiplier. (Mobiles must identify by signing /M after their call.) To be eligible for an award, a station must not operate more than one transmitter at any one time.

*Exchange:* Signal report, county and state for U.S. stations. Signal report, province or country for others.

Scoring: QSOs with fixed U.S./Canadian stations 1 point; mobiles 15 points; U.S./Canadian contacts with DX, 5 points.

### 8 / The County Line Road Runner

Contacts with stations operating under a "Net Control" are invalid for contest purposes. FINAL SCORE: total QSO points times (x) total number of U.S counties worked.

Frequencies: 3.880, 7.240, 14.270, 21,340, 28.340 Mhz. Fixed stations should work above the suggested frequencies and allow lower power mobiles to operate below the suggested frequencies.

Awards: MARAC Mobile Plaque to first and second place mobile in the U.S., first and second plate U.S. fixed station, highest scoring North American fixed station other than U.S., and high scoring DX station other than U.S./North American. For contest purposes, "DX" is any country other than U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

MARAC Contest Certificates to winning stations as follows: fixed station in each state, province, and country; Mobile in each state. "Mobile" is defined as capable of being in motion at all times in the contest period, transmitting and receiving with no connections to stationary power lines, generators, antennas, or other objects. Mobile antennas used must be on the vehicle being driven, not towed or pushed, and must be capable of operation while in motion under bridges, overpasses, etc.

Misc.: Mobiles that change states during the contest should calculate their scores 1) for individual state certificates and 2) for total score for the overall plaque. Total overall score must not count a country as a multiplier more than once regardless of the location or frequency.

A check sheet of counties is required for entries with 100 or more counties worked. Completed logs, summary sheets, and check sheets must be received by May 8, 1995, sent to Bill Nash, W0OWY, 13212 N. 37th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85029. A set of log sheets, summary sheet, and check sheet is available from W0OWY at the above address. Send No. 10 SASE with two units of postage.

## From the Secretary

If your mailing label indicates 199503 or 199504, it is time to renew. Dues with First Class mailing of the Newsletter are \$19/yr. Dues with Third Class mailing of the Newsletter are \$16/yr. Note that Third Class mailing is available within the United States only. Dues with the Newsletter mailed Air Mail to all continents other than North America are \$30/yr. Multiple year renewals and business size SASE's with renewals are also very much appreciated. Please make your check or money order payable to MARAC and mail to the Secretary, Don Magers, KE5WL, 406 Cherry Park Drive, Sherman, TX 75090-6709.

### ARRL Memberships

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

November: WOUM, WB4EQF, N6OKX, WA3QNT, WS3F, K4CCW, WD9EJK, W0DSY, NK7B, W3DR.

December: WS5R, W5UJO, KC5UO, WA3TUC, NF8K, KE5WL.

I process these applications on a monthly basis. My cutoff day for each processing cycle for these is the last day of the month. If your ARRL renewal notice requests you return it to them by April 15, I should receive it on or before March 31. We do not want anyone to miss a copy of *OST* because of their

support of MARAC.

For each ARRL membership, Regular or Senior Memberships, MARAC gets a \$2 fee for a renewal or \$5 for a new membership. To take advantage of this, I ask that you mail the ARRL membership application and your check made out to MARAC for the amount of the ARRL dues to: MARAC, 406 Cherry Park Drive, Sherman, TX 75090-6709.

### **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 32 cent postage to: MARAC, 406 Cherry Park Drive, Sherman, TX 75090-6709

Europeans can get the Packet from Eddie, G4KHG.

### Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes November 6, 1994

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board for the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc., a Kansas Nonstock Corporation (MARAC) was held, beginning at 2:25 p.m., on Sunday November 6, 1994, at the home of Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, Route 1 Box 267, Denison, TX.

Joe Parsons, W5UJO, President, presided as chairman of the meeting. Don Magers, KE5WL, Secretary of MARAC, acts as Secretary of the meeting.

The following Directors were present: Joe Parsons, W5UJO; Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS; Don Magers, KE5WL; Diane Landreth, KI5TV. Also attending were Mary, KC5UO, Jean, WDX5JGS.

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 11,1994, meeting of the Board of Directors as printed, was made by Diane Landreth, KI5TV, seconded by Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, and a unanimous vote thereon, the motion carried.

Diane Landreth, KI5TV, presented a review of the Treasurer's reports, for the financial activity for the months of September and October. A motion to accept these reports was made by Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, seconded by Joe Parsons, W5UJO, a unanimous vote thereon, the motion carried.

After a discussion about the appointment of a new Newsletter Editor and the cost of printing the newsletter, a motion to accept the recommendations of the Publication Committee, to appoint Dick Sine, KB3WN, as newsletter Editor, effective January 1995, and retain the services of Legal Printing, for printing of *The County Line Roadrunner*, was made by Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, seconded by Diane Landreth, KI5TV, a unanimous vote thereon, the motion carried.

President Joe Parsons, W5UJO presented a report on the balance sheet and the return of the seed money from the MARAC Annual Convention held in Springfield, MO, on June 21-25, 1994. After some discussion by the Board, it was determined that President Joe Parsons W5UJO would contact Steve Cope K5KDG for additional detailed information to better explain several of the line items. A report will be presented at the next meeting concerning this information. Copies of the balance sheet will be sent to all Directors and newsletter.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors, will be held at 2:00 p.m., December 4,1994, at the home of Joe Parsons, W5UJO, 1639 Evergreen Drive, Mesquite, TX. For any additional information, please contact Don Magers, KE5WL,

# February 1995

MARAC Secretary.

There was no further business to come before the meeting, on the motion of Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS seconded by Diane Landreth, KI5TV and a unanimous vote thereon, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m., November 6, 1994.

### Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes January 8, 1995

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board for the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc., a Kansas Nonstock Corporation (MARAC) was held, beginning at 2:25 p.m., on Sunday January 8, 1995, at the home of Joe Parsons, W5UJO, 1639 Evergreen Drive, Mesquite, TX.

Joe Parsons, W5UJO, President, presided as chairman of the meeting. Don Magers, KE5WL, Secretary of MARAC, acts as Secretary of the meeting.

The following Directors were present: Joe Parsons, W5UJO; Don Magers, KE5WL; Diane Landreth, KI5TV; Bill Peale, W5MW; Mike Carver, KG5UZ. Also attending were Mary, KC5UO, Cheryl, KJ5PQ.

A directed motion to accept the minutes of the November 6,1994, meeting of the Board of Directors as printed, was made by Joe Parsons, W5UJO, and a unanimous vote thereon, the motion carried.

Diane Landreth, KI5TV, presented a review of the Treasurers reports, for the financial activity for the months of November and December. A directed motion to accept these reports was made by Joe Parsons, W5UJO, a unanimous vote thereon, the motion carried.

President Joe Parsons, W5UJO presented a report on the balance sheet and the return of the seed money from the MARAC Annual Convention held in Springfield, MO on June 21-25, 1994. Action on this matter was tabled pending further

Secretary Don Magers, KE5WL, presented a bill for the payment of the liability insurance premium, Albert H. Wohlers and Co. for the amount of \$867.00. A motion to pay the insurance premium was made by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, seconded by Bill Peale, W5MW, a unanimous vote thereon, the motion

President Joe Parsons, W5UJO presented a review of a draft proposal from the Publication Committee concerning cost figures for advertising in The County Line Road Runner and guidelines for advertising upcoming conventions. After a discussion of the costs involved in printing and mailing extra pages, a motion to recommend a pricing schedule of \$80, full page, \$40, half page, and \$20, quarter page, was made by Bill Peale, W5MW, seconded by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, a unanimous vote thereon, the motion carried. The recommendations about the pricing schedule, Editor Dick Sine, KB3WN should administer the accounts payable and have control of advertising content, and the convention advertising guidelines will be returned to committee for their evaluation and comments. It is the Board's recommendations that these changes be put in place as soon as possible.

A Nominating Committee for the Directors positions which expire in July was appointed. As immediate past President Don Strom, WA0LKL will be chairman, those appointed to the committee were: Joe Parsons, W5UJO; Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL; Mike Carver, KG5UZ; Paul Bugen, WA3TUC; Ed Dranchak, NT9V; James Grandinetti, KZ2P.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors, will be held at 2 p.m., February 5,1995, at the home of Bill Peale, W5MW, 13432 Emeline Street, Dallas, TX. For any

additional information, please contact Don Magers, KE5WL, MARAC Secretary.

There was no further business to come before the meeting, on the motion of Diane Landreth, KI5TV, seconded by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, and a unanimous vote thereon, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m., January 8, 1995.

## **MARAC Financial Report**

Checking account as of November 1, 1994 6510.01

1267.00 Income Expenses 1442.84

Checking account as of December 1, 1994 6334.17

2001.50 1433.92 Expenses

Checking account as of December 31, 1994 6901.75

Savings account as of November 1, 1944 19,291.20

no change in November or December

Savings account as of December 31, 1994 19,291.20

## Address Changes, Corrections, New Members

R-932 W9FBC Maurice J. "Maury" Mead, 216 S. John St., Neenah, WI 54956-2317, =Winnebago

R-1353 KA9ACS Charles Wertz, 701 W. Route 173, Antioch, IL 60002-1199. =Lake

R-1509 K5HT George W. Lee, 612 Gemi Dr., Longview, TX 75604-1814, =Gregg

R-2238 N0LHN Al Summerford, 78334 Oak Ridge Rd., Folsom, LA 70737-3527, St. Tammany

R-2408 K8NI A.N. "Norm" Into, 2356 5th Ave., Youngstown, OH 44504-1844, =Mahoning

R-2486 WA2ITJ R.C. "Bob" Bruno, 3716 Hedge Grove Dr., North Las Vegas, NV 89030, =Clark

WOUBT, Bud Lafferty, 11370 Robinson Dr. - #204, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

#### **New Members**

R-2655 K0COB Harold E. Byram, 413 Seaport Circle, Liberty, MO 64068-3453, =Clay

R-2656 NOVWD Dave Summers, 5044 Aspen Dr., Savage, MN 55378-2914, =Scott

R-2657 AA0PY Michael J. Afton, 6474 E. Parkview, Wichita, KS 67219-1438, =Sedgwick

R-2658 KF8NL Gary F. Stephenson, 3763 Grace St., New

Boston, OH 45662-4926, =Scioto R-2659 KD4HNB D.J. "Don" McVicker, 3029 Greenwood

Lane, Boynton Beach, FL 33435-8153, =Palm Beach R-2660 KF9YL Fred E. Levinson, 364 Iris Lane, Highland Park, IL 60035-5208, =Lake

R-2661 N2BWE Dr. Burton "Burt" Sussman, 3 Escondido, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-4546, =Seminole

R-2662 N0FGZ Ken Buska, 11051 Kendall Way, Westminster, CO 80020-3150, =Jefferson

R-2663 KE6GTR Judy McGarry, P.O. Box 701, Mariposa, CA 95338-0701, =Mariposa

# Why Go for Sirloin When You Can Go to Hamburg by AA2AV

Attention all County Hunters looking for a great time this summer: MARAC's 1995 National Convention is being consumer by myself and a group of excellent assistants (KZ2P, WA2ABD, K2NJ, NO2W, KA2ELH, N2CWG, KC2CK, W2EZ, WV2B, WB9NUL, N4ANV, and others). Here is some preliminary info. We will have more in each issue of *The County Line Road Runner* from now until July!

The dates to circle on your calendar are July 5-9. The place is the Holiday Inn, Hamburg, NY. Now you get my meaty headline. Hamburg is a suburb of Buffalo and the Holiday Inns just off Exit 57 of the N.Y. Thruway. It's just a stone's throw away from Niagara Falls and Canada and yet we avoid the high room costs in Niagara Falls. We have been guaranteed an excellent rate of only \$66/night no matter how many adults. Teens and younger children stay free!

Here are some highlights to whet your appetite.

—Thursday (July 6) we have arranged a special afternoon tour of Buffalo's Naval Park (World War II destroyer and submarine, a 50's/60's vintage guided missile cruiser, naval museum and outdoor waterfront refreshments) followed by a gala evening at nearby Pilot Stadium where we will get a special section of the park, recognition for MARAC on the electronic scoreboard and baseball goodies for everyone, while we watch the Buffalo Bisons slug it out against their Triple A league opponents.

—Friday (July 7), we will hold our annual dinner banquet at Ilio DePaulo's for a feast of steak, seafood, chicken and pasta, in addition to some special county hunter entertainment and thousands of dollars of exciting door prizes.

—Saturday (July 8), we will have a full range of interesting equipment, operating and net workshops, as well as MARAC's annual business meeting and awards presentation. We also will have a round trip bus run up to Niagara Falls (both sides of the border) for sightseeing at the Falls as well as visits to NF's hundreds of factory outlet stores, to Old Fort Niagara, Artpark, and other area sights. We also are going to make a special effort to have lots of fun activities for young families with children, something that has been lacking at past meetings. For instance, less than a 45-minute drive away is the famous Darien Lake Water and Amusement Park.

Stay tuned next month for a registration form and information costs of registration, the banquet and the various optional activities. Yours truly is serving as overall Chairman and Jim, KZ2P (a retired bank president!) is serving as Treasurer. All of us in the group are totally committed to giving you a wonderful 1995 convention in Hamburg.

You can reserve your room any time by calling the Holiday Inn directly at (716) 649-0500.

## Pre-Convention, En Route Festivities

June and Very Beard, WB3ITH and WB3IET, note that the annual convention site is but 80 minutes from their home, just up I-90. They invite all country hunters to an Independence Day (plus one) picnic and pool party at the home on July 5.

The picnic will begin July when the first country arrives and end when the last one leaves. They only ask for an RSVP. They provided the editor a map, which would not reproduce well. Only two turns are required from interstate, making it an easy run from the major routing. So, at the time you RSVP, send an SASE for your own map copy.

They also have offered to provide local accommodation information.

June and Vern's address is 1219 Lee Rd., Waterford, PA 16441-9229. Talk-in (in case you have zero map skills) will be on 146.61.

## Michigan Mini Information

Formerly known as the Great Lakes District MARAC Mini, the annual Michigan Mini is scheduled for April 20-22 at the Country Hospitality Inn, 12260 James St., Holland, MI. Rooms are \$48.50 for a single, \$51.30 for a double, and \$54 for a King, plus tax. Rooms include a continental breakfast. Motel reservations should be send direct to the facility at P.O. Box 2153, Holland, MI 49422-2153, or phone (616) 396-6677. The special rates are good through April 5.

Registration (which includes name tag and group photo) for the weekend events is \$9 for a single or \$12 for OM/YL. A Saturday night dinner, at \$15 per person, is planned.

The motel is adjacent to a Manufacturer's Outlet Mall, and a golf course is nearby.

Mail registration, dinner, and raffle (once again a homebrew amplifier, at \$5 per ticket) remittance should be sent to Paula Batema, N8EMV, 1567 66th St., Fennville, MI 49408. Include calls, names, and USA-CA numbers of all who will be attending.

### **Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Contact
3/23-25/95	SC District Mini, Olathe, KS	K0AYO
4/8-9/95	MARAC SSB Contest	W0OWY
4/20-22/95	Michigan Mini .	AK8A & N8EMV
5/6-7/95	MARAC CW Contest	W3DYA
7/5-8/95	MARAC National Convention	AA2AV
9/27-30/95	Pacific District Mini, Las Vegas,	NV KB7QO
11/2-4/95	SE District Mini	KM4W
7/1-5/96	MARAC National Convention	W0OWY
7/97	MARAC National Convention	KN4JR
7/98	MARAC National Convention	WB4FBS

(tnx to The Weekly Hunter for the information)

### The Last Word, by KB3WN

Well, now, this has been a busy month. At the very least, the number of pages is increased ... and that is solely because of the materials sent to me. Thanks.

A brief request is in order:

When sending me anything for use in these pages, please do not type totally in capital letters. In the first place, it is most difficult to read. In the second place, all too often I can miss something, like a name beginning with "Mc" without knowing if the following letter should be capitalized or not. So, put away your RTTY habits and learn how to release the caps lock key.

I am using an editor's prerogative to move things around a bit. At least two of the submissions this time were sent as letters to the editor, and I made small articles out of them. They stand out a little more than way.

# MARAC PACIFIC DISTRICT MINI

ANNOUNCING: The 1995 Pacific District Mini

DATES:	September 28th, 29th, and 30th	, 1995	
LOCATION:	Showboat Hotel and Casino, 280	0 Fremont St.	. Las Vegas NV
DIRECTIONS	From the south: Rt 93/95 pecom Fremont or take # 515 Expwy left on Fremont - The hotel From the north on Rt 95, take Fremont and then left to So	North to Char is on the lea Eastern, turn	rleston, turn Et.
ROOM RATE:	\$44.00 for 1 or 2 people. The per night charge for 3rd and 4	re will be a state on in a	310 per person a room plus tax
RESERVATIONS	5: A block of 50 rooms will be this, rates will be for what make your reservations early mention MARAC for the specia 50 rooms some Lucky Hotel Gu FREE and we will receive a 1 party before our banguet. 2	ever rooms are . Call 1-800- d price. If a est will recei hour complime	available so -826-2800 and we occupy these ve their room entary cocktail
TRANSPORTAT	ION: A hotel shuttle will be av	allable from	the airport.
HOSPITALITY	Opens at noon Thursday, host	ed by Joyce, V	/B9NUL
PRIZES:	ALL PRIZE DONATIONS WILL BE	APPRECIATED	
DINNER:	Saturday night Dinner, Buffe	t Style, \$20.0	00 per person
REGISTRATION	N: \$13 per family or \$9 for inc and 2 prize drawing tickets.		
Ada	COMPLETE FORM BELOW AND SEND FEE AND COST OF SATURDAY J. McLernon, 714 W. Roderick A	NIGHT DINNER S	TO:
	1995 Pacific District Mini Reg	ristration For	m
NAME		CALL	USACA #
SPOUSE or GU	JEST	CALL	_ USACA #
ADDRESS			
REGISTRATION	Y FEE		\$
EXTRA PRIZE	TICKETS & DONATIONS - \$1 ea or	12 for \$10	\$
ENTRA BADGE:	S at \$ 3 each: Name	Call	\$
SATURDAY NIC	GHT DINNER #	tlmes \$20	= \$
		TOTAL ENCL	OSED \$
Charle 15 in	torretod in Colf #	lorelina #	

# MARAC SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT MINI

ANNOUNCING: The 1995 South Central Mini DATES: March 23 - 25, 1995

LOCATION: The Best Western, Hallmark Inn South/Olathe I-35 & Ks 150 (Sante Fe), Olathe, Ks. There is a Denny's resturant across the parking lot to the south.

ROOM RATES: 1 person, 1 bed \$36.00/night; 2 persons, 1 bed \$38.70/night; 2 persons, 2 beds, \$41.40/night. All rates plus tax.

RESERVATIONS: 913-782-4343. Tell them you are with the Amateur Radio Group. A block of 30 rooms will be held until March 1, 1995, after that, room rates will be honored on a space available basis. If you want a room I suggest that you get your reservations in as soon as possible. They have 85 rooms and they are often full.

ACTIVITIES: Thursday night, possible Casino gaming on the Missouri River if anyone is interested; Friday morning, weather permitting, Golf tournament; No host Dinner Friday evening at location to be announced later.

HOSPITALITY: Opens at noon Thursday, hosted by Joyce, WB9NUL.

PRIZES: ALL PRIZE DONATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

DINNER: 5 meat all you can eat buffet at Santa Fe Bar-B-Que about 5 blocks. Includes free soft drink and coffee refills. \$11.00/person! Beer Extra.

REGISTRATION: \$13 per family or individual, includes photo and 1 badge. Extra badges \$3.

COMPLETE FORM BELOW AND SEND WITH REGISTRATION FEE AND COST OF SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER TO: ROBERT DYSON 8943 OVERHILL CIRCLE DE SOTO KS 66018

NAME	CALL	USACA #
SPOUSE	CALL	USACA #
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
REGISTRATION FEEDINNER (#) AT \$11.		
EXTRA BADGES (#)	AT \$3.00 (LIST NAME/CAL	L)
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	•••	
CHECK IE INTERESTED IN G	OLF # CASINO G/	AMRING #