

COUNTY LINE ROAD RUNNER

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Deadline for next Newsletter:

September 20, 1995

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Dateline CW

by Ed, KN4Y

No great convention is created suddenly, any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. If you tell me that you desire a fig, there must be some time. Let it blossom, bear fruit and ripen. The final fruit will not be a goober.

As I was washing 2,413 miles of road grime off my vehicle I was thinking how fast time goes when one is having fun with other knights of the road. In spite of the ever-changing agenda it was a fun convention at Hamburg, New York, or "Nu Ork" as pronounced by the natives. I sprayed water at a squirrel who was barking rodent obscenities at me and was about to wet the wheels (with the hose) when the wind chimes began to vibrate from wave fronts produced from the engine of many decibels. Gator is coming, Gator is coming, screeched the awakened Owl, the squirrels ran for the tree tops and the birds left the feeder and flew to the yagi. This is not Gator's first visit.

A distant cloud of dust rising above the cornfield confirmed the approach of Gator, whose main reference is the *Enquirer*. He pulled into the yard stopping just short of the "beware of mean cat" sign. I turned the water stream from my hose on the side of his truck bed to rinse off the dried tobacco juice and waved a welcome. Gator slid out of the cab grinning like a person who just found some coins in the change slot of a telephone.

"Glad to see you got back in one piece and don't worry about the dust that is what rains are for, how be your trip?"

"Let us go into the shack and get outta this heat," I said as I shut off the faucet and to prevent an aneurysm released the pressure in the hose, "Get a couple cool beers outta the fridge and the jar of nuclear jalepeño salsa," I said as I reached for a bag of nachos and headed to the shack. The birds flew back to the feeder, the Owl dosed off and the squirrels resume scouring for buried acorns, Gator's truck is quiet.

"Did you give Al the case of my homebrew mouthwash, the gold plated horseshoe and give Ed one of my Gator stamps?" said Gator as he popped two tops at the same time.

I took one of the beers and said, "No, Al and Ed were not at the convention."

"What 'cha do with the stuff?"

"The stuff is still in the van."

"Tell me about the convention starting with the hospitality room and was cold hand Joyce in charge."

"Who else? Number 105 was the hospitality room, a itty bitty motel room, and the number of county hunters inside the room at one time was limited depending on the percentage of body fat."

"You mean it was crowded with weight challenged county hunters?"

"Just like the food stamp office on the first of the month."

Gator understands better when the facts as associated with reality.

"How was the C bubble meeting?"

"That is CW, and it was scheduled on Saturday but was held on Wednesday before most of the CW operators arrived. I surmise this was to prevent them from making a decision like they did last year."

Gator, looking confused, popped another pop top. "Well no wonder, Al was not there to ..."

"That was not the problem, had the CW operators had a successful meeting it would have meant the convention meeting agenda would not be a total disaster."

"You mean some think fast, some think slow , and some think half-fast."

"You got it, let's open the jar of salsa and nacho chips."

"Now that is good thinking, did you go on any tours?" asked Gator as he dipped a chip through the cayenne fumes.

"Sure did, the first tour, scheduled to leave at 9 a.m. but changed to 8:30, was a visit to old Fort Niagara located at the head of the Niagara River. We got on the bus and away we went."

"Did you also git to see the new Fort Niagara and did'cha see a lotta tanks like I saw at Fort Steward?"

"Nope, it is called old because this fort was built way back in 1726. We saw a moat with a drawbridge, went into the old buildings and saw old cannons setting around the grounds. Our guide explained what each building was used for and some history of the area. It rained on us a couple of times during the tour, here are some pictures I took while at the fort."

"This building looks like Trapper Slappy's place down where the county line be the river."

"That is the blockhouse."

"Look here they had a gift shop in the fort, wonder what was in it back in 1700."

"Gator, that is new and was added so tourists would have a place to spend money, back then they traded animal pelts."

"What kind?"

"Beaver."

"YOU MEAN THEY SKINNED..."

"No Gator you have been a CB'er too long, I am talking about the little animals that build dams in the river."

"Oh you mean the semiaquatic rodents of the genus Castor."

"Now you got it."

"Was the tour exciting?"

"The only thing more exciting would be watching lead paint peel." There was silence as we chuckled and dipped chips in the hot salsa which we washed down with copious amounts of beer. This is known as male bonding.

While Gator freshened his chew I popped a couple more beers and continued, "After the tour we all boarded the bus and headed for the Niagara hydroelectric power vista."

"What is that, a electric credit card?"

"That is visa, this is vista an tourist acronym for a power plant lobby, anyhow it was time for a potty break. We only stayed about 15 minutes then we got back on the bus and rode over to Goat Island."

"Dang, wish I had known that, you could have brought back some goat meat, which, you know, is very low in cholesterol."

"That is just the name of the island, there are no goats on the island, I thought you got your goat meat from the goat lady over in Olfactory."

"Just wanted to git some northern goat, what was there?"

"We got off the bus and took what the bus driver said would be a short walk to the falls viewing area where I took that picture of Niagara Horseshoe Falls you are looking at. The short walk turned out to be 3,500 feet one way and most of us were huffing and puffing when we returned to the bus."

"~~Very~~ impressive but it would be more exciting if the water flowed up, this place looks like a tourist rip off."

"It is the greatest hype ever conceived"

"Where did you go next?"

"We went back to the motel to get ready for the group picture and the annual meeting."

"Why do you all take a group picture?"

"No one seems to know, it is ritual that is always done when county hunters gather. I guess it provides a record of who was there since no list of attendees is ever available. Why do you



Marac95 attendees.

ask?"

"I was looking at this picture, when was it taken?"

"I do not know I forgot to write the date on the back."

"Why don't someone in the front row hold a sign with the year?"

"Gator that is a good idea, I will pass your suggestion on to the convention people."

While Gator is gone I scan the convention photographs and see the picture of Barry, KA1CLV, and reminds me that he got his last county from Joyce, KD8HB, boy the negative is heavy he needs to loose a few pounds.

Gator returned, "Here's your beer, was the tour to the waterfall your only tour?"

"Thanks Gator, nope, the next day a bunch of us boarded a bus. Some went to the falls and some went to an outlet mall, the wife took me to the mall."

"You drove 1,200 miles to visit a mall?"

"Gator, when a woman's shopping gene kicks in time and distance means nothing. Remember Mark, W9OP, the county hunter with the Maine Coon cat, he was on the bus."

"I remember you were saying he should get an antenna."

"Not only did he get a new antenna system but mounted it directly on top of his van. He now has a good strong signal."

"Blowing smoke and tree top tall?"

"Yes!"

"Awesome."

Gator scans the photographs, "what are these notes mixed in with the photographs?" he asks.

"Let me see the notes, I remember now, Barry, KA1CLV, gave them to me. This one is from Tom, W2CUK, who got third time around and going for four. Due to health problems he and Ruth his XYL will not be able to make this convention, but sends his regards. This note is from Hank W9CRN, who needs only Hancock & Morgan in WV for the whole ball of wax and sez he now lives in an adult community and has only an attic dipole. Hank sends his regards. Barry was going to read the notes at the CW meeting, but the meeting was held before he arrived."

The window panes vibrate from the BOING BOING BOING

of a large bell.

"Dang, that be my beeper, cannot keep the customers waiting, so gotta go," yelled Gator as he ran out the door toward his truck. Gator roared off, the forest creatures are still, they cannot compete with a wanton V-eight. I pick up the hose and think that in spite of scheduling conflicts with the meetings and tours, the ever changing agenda, the small hospitality room, the small number of prizes given out, the Saturday banquet on Friday, no ICHN meeting, a MARAC meeting with no agenda but where ICHN stuff was discussed, and a motel built to house soldiers for Fort Niagara, the convention was fun, but it always good to get back home. Better start saving for the convention next year in Arizona. Where did I put the shorts I got from that Chippendale dancer?

Net Operating Tips by Mitch, W4RKV

When I was first licensed in 1950, the term "break-break" was very commonly used. There weren't nearly as many hams back then, and often your CQs elicited no calls. You then might tune around, find a nearby QSO that sounded interesting, and ask to join them with a "break-break." There were usually nice enough to invite you in. I met some very nice people that way.

The relevance of this county hunting? We occasionally hear some poor innocent happy by, wonder what is going on at .336, or is looking for his neighbor who is mobile and on vacation, and transmits his "break-break" on the net. Too often, after it becomes clear he has no emergency, he is informed in very ascerbic tones that a double break on this net represents an emergency. He then leaves the frequency, perhaps chastened but certainly with a bad taste in his mouth where county hunters are concerned.

I've probably been guilty of such discourteous conduct myself when acting as NCS, but I'll try to be more thoughtful in the future. I hope you will join me.

New USA-CA Award

Norm, WA3RTY, CQ USA-CA custodian, has announced the following USA-CA recipients.

877 Steve Southers, NH6SR, 8-20-95
878 Edwood F. Bunch, N4UJK, 8-20-95
879 Mike Prevatte, KN4XP, 8-20-95
880 Ken F. Magee, WV1Y, 8-20-95

Counties Needed ...

... for USA-CA

KBØG: Bibb, Elmore (Alabama); Dodge, Lincoln, Oconee, Wilkes (Georgia); Calloway (Kentucky). Phone: 770-914-2525.

NB6A: Bibb, Elmore, Geneva, Lamar (Alabama); Colquitt (Georgia); Ballard, Crittendon, Kenton (Kentucky); Brunswick, Clay, Cleveland, Green (North Carolina). Phone: 619-251-3042.

... for Other Awards

WB9YCO (Second Time): Pike (Illinois); Monroe (Iowa); Marion (Missouri); Dixon (Nebraska); Cavalier (North Dakota). Phone: 414-766-0354 after 1700z.

WU4S (Bingo): Escambia (Florida); Fayette (Illinois); Sac (Iowa); West Feliciana (Louisiana); Renville (Minnesota); Craig (Oklahoma); Motley, Panola (Texas). (Third Time) Calhoun (Florida); Kalkaska (Michigan); Loup (Nebraska); San Juan (Washington).

MARAC Awards

Van Peterson, K4QFK, Awards Custodian

P.O. Box 48307, Cumberland, NC 28331-8307 (910) 424-4483

Awards Committee—Great Lakes: Paula Batema, N8EMV; North Central: Carl Durnavich, KF9FU; North East: John Butler, WB2NFB; Pacific: Gene Eggebraten, W7GVF; South Central: Joyce Booth, WB9NUL; South East: Jim Thomas, KB4XK

July was a very busy month, in spite of poor band conditions this summer, and August is shaping up to be the same as far as award submissions are concerned. Keep it up, but you do not have to submit them one at a time with separate checks!

I am pleased to announce the following new Second Time Holders:

182 Jerold Goetsch, KF7RU, 06/22/95
183 Joyce Judy, KD8HB, 07/29/95
184 Wilbert Minzer, WA7IRD, 08/01/95
185 William Starten, NC6M, 08/08/95
186 Robert Willsey, W5VRA, 08/11/95

Mini-Conventions

It does not appear likely that I will be able to attend the Mini in Las Vegas, which I would like very much to do, but I will try to send any new information that I have to the Convener to pass out to those who attend. At present I do plan to attend the 3-M Mini.

Awards Committee Actions

The Awards Committee has received a new proposal which it is considering at this time.

A proposal has been received from Fred Crawford, AB5SL, to "Eliminate the requirement for Confirmations for the MARAC Second Time Around Award." Before any of you say, "Here we go again!" take a moment to look at the issue from all view points and let your Awards Committee representative know what your feelings are on this subject. I know that some have very strong feelings about this but as I have said in the past, the Awards Committee must review any suggestion that is submitted. We will not rush this decision process, but I urge you to not delay in making your opinions heard so that the Awards Committee and the Executive Committee know how to vote on this issue.

The proposal was a lengthy one and I will try to summarize it here;

1. The proposed change would give the applicant a choice of "Confirmed" or "Unconfirmed" contacts in order to qualify for the award. (This choice exists for all MARAC Awards now except the USA Counties Award and the Second Time Around Award.)

2. Reasons for the proposed change; The present costs involved with confirmations are too high. If a person is going to cheat, he/she can't win in any system. With the requirement for confirmations eliminated the people could use the time/money to apply for other awards, run the net, etc.

Award of the Month

This is a new feature in my column! Each month I will take one or more of the Awards that MARAC offers, review it and explain how to fill out the application form.

This month I will start with the LC-1 and LC-2 awards.

The LC-1 Award is the award given to the station who gives YOU the last county to finish a state. This station may be mobile or fixed. The first LC-1 that you receive will be the "MARAC Last County Award" Certificate and the "Stub" from the LC-1 application form. There will be *no seals* with this award. This award will have a "sequence number" on the "stub" of 1. Subsequent LC-1 awards number 2, 3 and 4 will be a red, blue and gold seal along with the accompanying "stubs." *It is important that you save the stubs*, you will need those to apply for the LC-3 Award. For sequence number 5 of the LC-1 Award you will again receive a certificate and so on such that if you have received a total of 8 LC-1 awards you should have TWO certificates with Red, Blue and Gold seals.

Filling out the forms: Start with remembering that this award

LAST COUNTY AWARD APPLICATION - CATEGORY 1									
① From Call	W4ABC		4/7 P M	Let in the State					
② To Call	KN9ZEV		P M	Let in the State					
③ Contact Date	08/23/92		(MO/DA/YR)	Example: 12/31/92					
④ County	EAST		066540E						
⑤ State	ND	Band	160	Mode	CW	SEE WWW.MARAC.COM			
⑥ Award For:	USA-CA	Sec Time	3	3rd Time	4th Time	5th Time			
⑦ Other/Check:	All YL	All Mobile	FBCA	No Tally	5	Five Star			
Each As Needed All One Mode All One Band By the LC-1 Official									
CONVENER WILL SEND MAIL OUTLINE IN THE MIDDLE WEEKLY BY THE OFFICE - LEAVE OTHER AREAS BLANK									
Award Seq. #	Award Date								
Level:	Basic	Red	Blue	Gold	Award #				
Form LC-1 Rev 08/95									

Name - Address Restricted Only, If not in the CQ Directory			
From	To		
Date:			
ST	County		
Band	Mode		
Award For:			
Seq#	Date		
Car	Red	Blue	Gold
Award #			

CONVENER SIGNATURE _____ DATE LC-1 Rev 08/95

is from **YOU** and to the station who gave you the last county.

Line (1); This is **YOUR** call, the award is from **YOU**. M/F/P, Indicate status of YOUR station, Mobile, Fixed or Portable.

Line (2); This is the **MOBILE** or **FIXED** stations call who gave you the last county and his/her status.

Line (3); This is the **date of the contact**, expressed as month/day/year in **six numerical digits**, ex: **08/18/95**.

Line (4); This is the **COUNTY**, spelled correctly please.

Line (5); This is the **STATE** (Two letters), **BAND**, in METERS, and **MODE**, expressed as CW, SSB, FM, RTTY (maybe even AM).

Line (6); This is where you check the **REASON** for this Award. Please always check at least one, but remember the Awards data base only has room for so much information so that if you check too many blocks, I can not record them all in the data base. Also remember that the term USA-CA refers to the FIRST time around only. Also remember that we know that this is the last one in the state, but for what purpose? For the Nth Time award, put Nth in the "Other" space and the time around it is, 6th, 7th, etc.

Line (7) This needs only to be filled in with the **NAME AND ADDRESS** of the station that you are sending the award to **IF** he/she is **not** in one of the directories currently available or in the MARAC data base (This mostly pertains to new county hunters or fixed stations that are not county hunters. Also if a station has recently changed his call, please put here **his old call was** ————. If none of that is required, you may use this space for a thank you note or leave it blank.

DO NOT FILL IN ANY OTHER PART OF THIS FORM! All other information on this form is "Over-Printed" by one of the computer printers.

The cost of the LC-1 Award is \$2.00 for Members and \$3.00 for Non-members (This cost is based on who PAYS for the Award)

The LC-2 Award is given to the station who gives **YOU** the **LAST COUNTY OF ALL**. Sometimes referred to as "The Last for the Whole Ball of Wax." This Award consists of a "Certificate" with ALL seals, and a MARAC Mobile Plaque. The sequence number will be the next one for you so that if your first two awards were LC-1s (Certificate and red seal) and you received the LC-2 as sequence number 3, the next LC-1 would be sequence number 4 (blue seal) and so on. One other point to remember is that even though this contact is the last one for one state, because it is the Last of all, there is NO LC-1 duplicate award for this contact (Only one Award)

The procedure for filling out this award application is the SAME as the LC-1 **except** for one additional line where you may put a personal message such as: "Thanks for the last county for first time around." This is what is engraved on the plate attached to the plaque and if left blank I will fill it in for you. **REMEMBER TO USE THE CORRECT FORM!** The LC-1 Form has a large YELLOW number 1 in the background (both sides of the form) and CATEGORY 1 printed on the top center of the form. The LC-2 form has the number 2 and instead of RED, BLUE, GOLD seals on the bottom, it says SPECIAL - ALL SEALS. (These two forms are over-printed differently by the printer so it is important to use the correct form)

The cost of the LC-2 Award is \$20.00 for paid-up members and \$30.00 for non-members. This includes the Certificate and Mobile Plaque.

FOR EITHER OF THESE AWARDS, DO NOT SUBMIT MACHINE COPIES! These forms are sized to fit the printer and others will not work. **ALSO DO NOT USE FORMS WITHOUT THE "YELLOW" NUMBERS (dated prior to 08/92) If**

you need more forms, send me an SASE (#10 envelope). One unit of postage, approximately 12 forms; two units approximately 30 forms.

I hope I have cleared up any questions about these Awards. If possible, PLEASE send these to me in a #10 envelope, UN-FOLDED.

If you change your call or address, let us know right away so we can keep the database current.

Silent Keys

We are saddened to report the passing of Kathleen Ballinger, N9GOS, and Jimmie J. Gibson, WB9JOI.

Members Speak!

AA2AV, Chairman, MARAC 95 National Convention: To the nearly 200 county hunters from around the nation and world who attended our national convention in Hamburg, NY, I want to thank you for coming; and on behalf of the whole Marac95 Committee, I hope you had a great time. In spite of so-so weather and several on-site illnesses, everyone seemed to agree that Marac95 was one of our best meetings ever. The evening at the ball game was great, everyone was in awe of Niagara Falls, and our banquet at Ilio DePaulo's was sensational. All the nifty door prizes weren't too bad either! Best of all were the 24-hour-a-day eyeball QSOs in our "intimate" hospitality room and all the advice on mobile HF installations. When all the smoke cleared, we even made a modest "profit" for MARAC. That should get next year's group in Arizona off to a good start. Lastly, I want to say sincere thanks to my wonderful committee: Jim, KZ2P; Paul, WB2ABD; Joyce, WB9NUL; Bo, NO2W; Bill, K2NJ; Gail, WB2AXG; and Roger, WB3HUV. You're the best!

W4RKV: Most of you know I write a short monthly article titled "Net Operating Tips." Some of these tips arise with other county hunters who send me suggested topics for the column, but most of them come from my own goofs made early in my county hunting days. Believe me, when I first started in mid-1983, I committed every gaffe possible, and then some. So, the tips are not based on some arcane theory pulled from thin air, but on my own early operating practices.

I believe my operating skills improved when I finally became aware of and read the county hunter guidelines. These guidelines are published in the *County Hunter's Handbook* and have been formulated over the years, along with periodic updates, by a number of very able and respected county hunters. Many of them are still active on the net today. I believe the guidelines benefit us all **if we use them as intended**.

The following is a direct quote from the *Handbook* guidelines: "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."

A few county hunters maintain that net control stations DO have special privileges and that it is all right to contravene the above guidelines. My feeling is that a person who assumes NCS in order to gain an advantage over the rest of us is doing it for a less-than-benevolent reason, i.e., to further his/her own ends and

not for the benefit of all. I have logged 1,900 hours as NCS or ANCS over the past 12 years myself, and I can honestly say I have never used that position to advance my own totals at the expense of the group.

KE2RX & N2RZN: We wish to take this opportunity to say a big "thank you" to everyone who attended MARAC '95 in Hamburg, NY. I just started county hunting the last part of May and couldn't pass up a chance to go to a National Convention so close by. Not really knowing what to expect we tossed around the idea of going or not, but now, we are sure glad we did. One of our biggest fears was not knowing anyone and end up sitting their like a bump on a log; but, a couple of minutes after we arrived that fear was laid to rest. Everyone we introduced ourselves to made us feel like we were part of a big family which now we feel county hunters are. Someone there explained that the awards are what everyone is shooting for, but the main thing is the people and I fully agree. This was our first convention, but certainly not our last. Again, thank you.

K1ER: I had planned a trip to Hawaii, including Kalawao, in August. But, when I actually worked out the flights with the travel agent, it was obvious that my plan for the second week in August just wouldn't work. Too many conflicts with meetings Joan needed to attend, and the New Orleans DX Convention. So ... schedule change. We are flying to Honolulu on August 26 and returning September 13. With a week on Oahu, two days on Molokai for the Maui/Kalawao line, and approximately a week on Hawaii.

Vote results for 1994-1995 Net control/Mobile

Following are the vote tabulations for Net Control and Mobile operator for the Annual award just issued. The Number following the call is the total point score for the year; 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are shown in **BOLD** print.

SSB Net Control

K1ER 135; WV1Y 4; K1QPV 3; N1JAC 2; N1FJR 6; KC1NA 46; WU1T 2; KA1CLV 2; **KZ2P 242;** K2ZK 3; VE2MS 11; NGK2 3; KC2P 2; WU3H 40; WA3TUC 19; AJ3X 25; WS3F 3; KB3GN 2; N4ANV 3; N4CD 16; N4MYZ 10; KD4NBC 2; WA4KER 3; KB4XK 4; KD4PY 7; NV4Z 5; NT4V 3; W5UJO 37; WA5INV 9; KG5J 3; KC5UO 3; KJ5PQ 6; NV6L 5; NC6M 5; W7LQT 13; W7GVF 2; WA7IRD 55; N7OTR 5; N7BKW 23; WA7JHQ 7; W7KZZ 2; W7IRD 3; K8DTO 5; WB8JZN 3; NZ8Q 2; NG9V 2; NG9L 2; NU9M 40; KF9FU 21; N79V 85; KA9ZRW 3; **W0AYL 162;** N0BWD 2; N0VWD 2; KC0IA 2; W0AWL 3;

SSB Mobile

KC1NA 158; KV1M 2; K1ER 7; K2NJ 7; WA2AKB 3; N2TTH 6; WA2UJH 7; N3DRO 27; KB3GN 7; WS3F 2; WB3TE1 2; W44FFV 8; **N4CD 165;** AA4LY 2; KR4MN 2; K4ELK 8; KD4NFE 4; G4KHG 2; KB4XK 9; WA4CHI 2; AA4HD 2; KQ4FA 4; WD4HXG 3; WB4FBS 2; KJ5PQ 126; KC5P 3; KG5J 4; K5GE; 16; AB5SL 15; W5VRA 3; A15P 8; W5OBT 2; KG5UZ 4; KK7X 51; W7AKT 3; W7LQT 9; W7GVF 13; N7AKT 6; N7OTR 13; K7IOO 3; KD8HB 2;

K8OHC 3; W8QOI 5; N8QOI 2; KD8HA 10; K8DTO 2; WB9OOG 12; WB9NUL 3; NT9V 36; WA9QNI 6; WA9LKD 2; KA9PZ 14; NG9L 2; AA9CW 5; **WA0SBR 172;** N0LDT 10; N0KGX 3; W0OWY 4; W0KZZ 2;

CW Net Control

WA6VJP 206; WB6VJP 3; KA3MMM 15; KG5J 2; W3XE 2; WU3H 6; **N0CYB (TIE) 28;** **KM8U (TIE) 28;** **W7BD (TIE) 28;** WA9QNI 5; N0FX 10; KM8U 22; NO2W 2; W4MRD 2; W6NNV 3; AA0PY 2; KD8HB 5; W6HOR 2; W7GVF 3; N0DPF 3; W6TWD 4; W4VQ 2; N1JAC 5; N5QLZ 3; W4RKV 3; NC2O 2;

CW Mobile

NF0X 19; KN4Y 9; KB4XK 22; WD4SIG 2; W5OBT 15; W3XE 5; K6QWH 3; K4QFK 6; W5UBT 2; **KK7X 46;** **KD8HB 53;** N0CYB 8; W9OP 2; NW2O 4; KA4IFF 6; KF9FU 2; KM8U 3; OH3JF 2; KG5J 5; WU3H 3; KA1CLV 2; WA6VJP 3; W0OWY 4; W2FXA 3; WA9QNI 17; WD3P 3; **W3DYA 65;** AA0PY 33; AA0IP 3; A15P 17; N4CD 5; W0UBT 4; KA3MMM 21; N5QLZ 8; W1TEE 4; K8CW 3; N2CWG 8.

Request for Antenna Help from Wes, WA0YFQ

In anticipation of my **XYL**, Vivian, joining me in the bliss of retirement (she's eligible in December), we bought a used motor home and I am in the process of attempting to get the antenna configuration to work on it. I have been using a three-band Hustler system for years, with it mounted on the trailer hitch of my Dodge Caravan. It may not be great, but it seem to work OK for me.

I want to utilize the same antennas on the motor home with a minimum of checking/rechecking SWR, so bought a new set of stingers for the loads: primarily 20M, 40M and 75M. These seem to load up totally differently in the motor home, using the system I have mounted. The antenna is on a bracket at the rear of the motor home, about half way up the rear wall, with the mast extending about two feet above the top, the loads above that. As the motor home is constructed of Fiberglass, I ran a ground wire to the frame in an attempt to obtain a ground plane, but the SWR still seems to go bananas for me.

I know many MARAC members have motor homes and I would like to have some input on how they have mounted their antennas. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

By the way, after Vivian does finally retire, we will begin to put out counties in earnest, working toward the final goal of putting out the whole ball of wax. Our current count is about 900.

(Editor: you may contact Wes directly at 402 S. First St., Lake Park, IA 51347-0424, or use these pages for your response with the hope that we can get a long-term discussion. An antenna Q&A monthly feature will help a whole lot of us.)

Twenty-Five Years Ago by Steve, WN7J

In the last column Bill, W0OWY, was soliciting for someone to take over his 25-years ago column. Since we live about five miles apart and usually have breakfast together on Saturday

mornings with other local county hunters, and anyone else who drops in to northwestern Phoenix, I guess I was an easy target.

First a few words about myself: I was first licensed in the United States in 1988 with the call WN7J, and almost immediately started county hunting. I currently stand at 3,026 confirmed, and, with personal commitments and two teenage daughters, am finding the going a bit slow for the last 50.

In September 1970 I was just completing my first year working for a living. Looking through the *MARAC Newsletter* as it was then titled, three things spring out at me. First, it was printed single-sided. I guess that's fair, since about then I was using punched cards and getting results on 11x17 paper. Second, the number of counties for the USA-CA was 3,079 and not the current 3,076. I would be interested to know what counties have been added or deleted over the years. And third, I actually recognize some of the calls as currently active county hunters. Perhaps there should be a QCCH (Quarter Century County Hunter) award!

The September 1970 meeting was held at the home of WØSJE and attended by eight members of MARAC. The club's non-profit status was discussed with the result that WØAYL would get the necessary forms for non-profit tax exemption. The finalized requirements for the initial awards were read, and all these awards could, and were, now being processed by the awards custodian. The initial set of awards were the Associate Award, M-50-M, the YL Mobile Award, and the MARAC DX Mobile Award. (Any awards issued before this time are closely related to 1x1(x1) reports).

A letter from the president discusses the concern that up to this point the MARAC awards are for general hams, and suggests a series of awards to recognize mobile operation. "Last county #3079" (obviously before the invention of wax), "Last county in a state," "Number of counties given out," and "Number of states given out" are suggested and member input is requested. The dates for the 1971 County Hunter meeting in Kansas City are announced as July 2-4 at the Glenwood Manor Motel in suburban Overland Park, and a formal announcement and program are to be mailed out in October.

The editor, WØYLN (became W5TQE), announces he has just received USACA #39. Also WA4BMC has put together complete MARAC award information as well as lists of addresses, net information, and QSL managers.

The members speak section consists of several needed lists as well as:

—WA3FED/WBØCQO asks for the mobile and net control to announce the county, and for net controls to announce the start and end times of a mobile run.

—KØAYO traveled to Seattle and back during very poor conditions, 4,800 miles and only 240 contacts.

—WA4RDV (N4XE) finished up on August 21, 1970, for USACA #37.

—WØYLN announces a mini at the Holiday Inn in West Memphis, Arkansas. He also notes that MARAC has two SWL members, who are avid award hunters.

—WA9GOH likes the newsletter and would like to see more technical information, especially about mobiling.

—W6RP (K7EI), supports the idea of awards for the mobiler.

Trips are planned by K4MNF (all Kentucky), K9DCJ (30 Wisconsin counties), W1DHL (requests in New England), and W6LWM (WZ3P from San Diego to Pittsburgh).

The final page of the newsletter is a list from ZL1KG of his last 145 counties. He is trying to finish up before he leaves his home in April 1971 for the Kansas City 1971 convention. (ZL1KG USA CA #52 3/3/71).

From the Secretary

If your mailing label indicates 199510 or 199511, 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, Inc., and mail to the Acting Secretary, Fred Crawford, AB5SL, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City TX 78148-2651.

NEW MARAC Information Packet

Thanks to everyone for getting the word out to potential new members and interested County Hunters that a County Hunting Information Packet is available. The Information Packet has been upgraded, July 1995, combining the original MARAC Information package and the Net Operating Guidelines. The package answers questions about Net frequencies, Computer Logging, MRC's and QSLing, etc. Send your request with a business size envelope with \$0.55 postage to: MARAC, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City TX 78148-2651.

Europeans can get the Packet from Eddie Scholes, G4KHG.

ARRL Memberships

Thank our MARAC members who have demonstrated their support of MARAC by submitting their ARRL memberships through the MARAC Secretary:

W5FHL, WDXSFHL, W6TPC, N9IHZ, N8HAM, W3DYA, W4RKV, WD9GBH

The last day of the month is my cut-off day for processing ARRL renewals. For example, if your ARRL membership expires the last day of April 1995, I must have your application before the last day of March 1995. We do not want anyone to miss a copy of *QST*, because of their support of MARAC.

For each ARRL Regular or Senior Membership, MARAC receives a \$2 rebate, (\$5 for a new ARRL membership). Please mail your check or money order payable to MARAC, Inc., for your ARRL dues and the ARRL membership application to: MARAC, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City TX 78148-2651.

Executive Committee Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board for the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, (MARAC), a Kansas Nonstock Corporation was held, beginning at 2:30 p.m., August 6, 1995, at the home of Joe and Mary Parsons, 1639 Evergreen Drive, Mesquite, Texas. Joe Parsons, W5UJO President, presided as chairman of the meeting.

The following Directors were present: Joe Parsons, W5UJO; Mike Carver, KGSUZ; Cheryl Mohon, KJ5PQ; Jerry Weaver, WDSJGS; Alan Landreth NA5F; Diane Landreth, KI5TV; Bill Peale, W5WM; Don Magers, KESWL.

Others present: John Peters, KJER; Jean Weaver, WDXJGS; Mary Parsons, KC5UO; Don Simmonds, K5BDX; and Fred Crawford, AB5SL.

The minutes of the meeting held July 8, 1995, were read. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made and the subsequent unanimous vote carried the motion.

Awards Presentation

Joe Parsons, W5UJO, presented MARAC President's Awards to:

- K15TV, Diane Landreth
- KE5WL, Don Magers

Old Business:

A. Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was made by Diane Landreth, K15TV. Discussion of recent bad checks and actions to collect the funds.

B. Upon recommendation by the legal counsel, appointed an acting Secretary until such time as the Board can conduct appropriate by-law changes and voting. Motion made and seconded to appoint AB5SL, Fred Crawford, Acting Secretary. Motion passed.

C. Voting by Awards Manager and Newsletter Editor. Discussion resulted from request by officers to be removed from the voting list. A Constitution/By-law change would be required and one or both of those officers might want to vote in the future. Current officers that do not want to vote, may abstain. No action taken to change the existing voting eligibility.

D. Annual Report. Has been mailed to the membership.

E. *Road Runner* Postage. The publisher, who places and pays for the postage, has been contacted and asked to check the amount of postage and use the correct amount.

New Business:

A. Current Bills consisting of printing, postage, ARRL Memberships and insurance for computer (K4QFK) and typewriter (KE5WL). Motion made and seconded to pay outstanding bills. Motion passed

B. Signal Reports. Letter from NIAPI Al Kaiser, recommends the adoption of "anything by one" e.g. 5/1, 3/1, 2/1, 1/1, signal reports. Discussion cited the ARRL log book description of a "1" readability report as being "unreadable" and a strength report of "1" as being faint signal, barely readable. Motion was made and seconded to forward the recommendation to the Awards Committee for their action, research and recommendation. Motion passed.

C. Letter from NSDKW

1. Offer to help with information officer duties. Overcome by appointment of acting secretary.

2. Request for disability waiver of dues. Approved.

D. Recommendation to eliminate requirement of confirmation of contacts for Second Time Around Award. Letter and recommendation made by AB5SL, Fred Crawford. Discussion at last meeting. Discussion at this meeting noted that the proposal made it possible for individuals to confirm their contacts if they so desire. Motion was made and seconded to forward the proposal to the Awards Committee with the Board's recommendation for approval and direction to the Committee to change the award wording so that:

1. Second Time Around Award does not require confirmation.
2. That an endorsement be made available for those individuals who want to confirm their contacts and have it annotated on their award.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors,

will be held at 2:30 P.M., September 10, 1995, at the home of K15TV, Diane Landreth. For any additional information, please contact Fred Crawford, AB5SL, MARAC Secretary.

There was no further business to come before the meeting. A motion by Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, and seconded by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, to adjourn the meeting was made and a unanimous vote resulted. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m., August 16, 1995.

MARAC Financial Report

Diane Landreth, K15TV

Checking Account as of July 1, 1995 **\$8,507.81**

Income:

Pete Peterson (Awards)	563.50
Don Magers (ARRL)	266.60
Don Magers (Dues)	1,043.00

TOTAL 1,872.50

Expenses:

ARRL	252.00
Returned check	2.00
Fairmont Awards	789.00
Bob Dyson (May)	25.66
Don Magers (May)	49.99
B&B Shop (seals)	272.21
Legal Print	573.42
Postage	273.09
Print	300.33

TOTAL 1,964.78

Checking Account as of July 31, 1995 **8,415.53**

Savings Account as of July 1, 1995 **22,575.38**

Interest 154.79

Savings Account as of July 31, 1995 **22,730.17**

Address Changes, New Members

- A-210 — AA3DP, Nancy Walker, P.O. Box 35, 5269 Old Strasburg Rd., Gap, PA 17527. =Lancaster
- C-62 — WB4FBS, Cliff Taylor, 22707 Red Mountain Dr., Elmdorf, TX 78112-6034. =Bexar
- R-202 — KD4PY, Jim Crisp, Jr., 111 Lakeview Dr., Saint Cloud, FL 34769-2536. =Osceola
- R-269 — WB9DCZ, Don Guy, 8677 E. State Road 218, Walton, IN 46994-9502. =Cass
- R-340 — WA4WQG, Art Dechent, Route 2, Box 304, Barboursville, VA 22923-9705. =Greene
- R-507 — NB6A, Nell Devitt, 69520 Fairway Dr., Desert Hot Springs, CA 92241-8243. =Riverside
- R-903 — KE5JA, Max Floyd, 902 Remington Ct., Friendswood, TX 77546-4067. =Galveston
- R-917 — AH6IP, Russ Fish, P.O. Box 3776, Sequim, WA 98382-5063. =Clallam
- R-1222 — WB6FJU, John Withrow, 52967 Day Road, La Pine, OR 97739-9015. =Deschutes

- R-1927 — WB4NWC, Roland F. Spooner, R.R. 1, Box 133R, Clover, VA 24534-9801. =Halifax
- R-2291 — VE2EM, Andy Rugg, P.O. Box 1839-Main, Cornwall, ONT, CANADA K6H 6N6
- R-2342 — KC1WE, Rex M. Mott, 12 Melrose Terr., #17, Wakefield, MA 01880-4024. =Middlesex
- R-2477 — WN3C, R.L. "Mac" McNeely, 498 Brampton Ct., Millersville, MD 21108-1008. =Anne Arundel
- R-2509 — KA7AKJ, Jack Mees, 2103 W. Straford Dr., Chandler, AZ 85224-1143. =Maricopa
- R-2568 — WA7JHQ, Sterline Whitaker, 14034 Newporter Way, San Diego, CA 92128-4329. =San Diego
- R-2593 — KG0AY, A.A. "Mandy" Roberts, 15560 Cornell Trail, Rosemount, MN 55068-1553. =Dakota
- R-2657 — AA0PY, Michael J. Afton, 6474 E. Parkview Dr., Wichita, KA 67219-1438. =Sedgwick
- R-2681 — W1BLH, James "Jim" Joyce, 184 Magnolia Bluff, Eastpoint, FL 32328. =Franklin

New Members

- R-2690 — KL7D, Bruce Barber, 9010 Noble Circle, Anchorage, AK 99502-5358. =3rd District
- R-2691 — AA4VN, Don Wolfe, 1903 Randy Ct., Huntsville, AL 35811-2333. =Madison
- R-2692 — AA2NL, Richard Cramer, R.R. 3, Mendham, NJ 07945-9804. =Morris
- R-2693 — KK4VN, A.K. "Pete" Pedersen, R.R. 3, Box 221, Cumberland, VA 23040-9229. =Cumberland
- R-2694 — KJ4KX, C.A. "Curt" Parker, 8166 Weendonville Dr., King George, VA 22485. =King George
- R-2695 — KA3OGL, D.J. "Don" Falls, 509 Bullet Way, Abbottstown, PA 17301-9604. =Adams

Arizona 96

The year 1996 will be a big one for Arizona. First the 1996 Super Bowl will be hosted at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe in January, then, during October, the ARRL SouthWestern convention will be held at Scottsdale.

Between these two events comes the "big one." From July 1-5, 1996 county hunters will be able to descend on the Holiday Inn, Mesa, for the 27th Annual MARAC convention. With convener Bill, W0OWY, and a supporting committee of 10 Arizona county hunters, this promises to be an all-out, bang-up affair.

So mark your calendars, warn your significant others, service the car (wait a little on this one), fire up the rig, and head out for rare Maricopa county. We, the convention committee, invite you all to spend a week with your fellow county hunters in the sunny desert Southwest.

Personally, it's a little too early to invest in 1996 calendars, but I did find a perpetual calendar in an old day-timer, and after looking up one from column "a" and one from column "b" I discovered that in 1996 July 1 is a Monday, and, therefore July 5 is a Friday. Since road signs in the Phoenix area tend to say encouraging things like "Tucson," "Los Angeles" and "Las Vegas," it is apparent even to the old timers who live here that once you get out of the city limits, two out of three next towns are in other states (we'll not even discuss heading east, which is generally believed to be the direction of the edge of the world). The convention is timed to allow people who have only a week to spare, to use both days either side of the convention for traveling. For people living further afield, Sky Harbor Airport handles over

13 million passengers a year, which is not bad for a area population of two million. Distance from the airport to the hotel is about 15 freeway miles.

The hotel itself is a large Holiday Inn in Mesa, at the junction of the Superstition Freeway, and Country Club Drive. You can actually find this spot on the city map for Phoenix in the standard Rand McNally road atlas. The hotel has over 200 rooms, 75 king suites, the rest doubles all for the one price of \$49 a night for one-four occupants. The hotel will accept reservations now, and you should quote the magic code "HAMM" to get this rate and at the same time specify what type of room you would like.

The seventh floor of the main building of the hotel is the penthouse, 3,000 square feet of space containing a kitchen area, and divided into several rooms and zones. This will be the hospitality room, with enough space to fit most of the attendees comfortably. When equipped with notice boards and a ham station, as well as the standard hospitality items, this will ably support the main convention activity, that of making and renewing acquaintances.

If you wish to preregister for the convention, please make a check payable to Jack Mees, and mail it to P.O. Box 87273, Phoenix, AZ 85080-7273. We also have an offer of 200 free convention QSLs for preregistration of \$100 or more. Drop a line to the above address and we'll return you the order form covering preregistration and the QSL details. The preregistration will be recorded and an adjustment will be made at the time the person sends in the registration form. Registration packets will be mailed in the Jan-Feb. 1996 time frame.

That is probably enough detail for the month, besides, if I went on, there would be very little to write in future months. So, on behalf of the convention committee of W0OWY, WA2GLU, N5DKW, KA7AKJ, K17CE, KA7JAS, N7OTR, WB7VIZ, N8BNI, K9EDE, and WN7J, I repeat the invitation to come see us and your friends in Arizona 96.—Steve, WN7J

North Central Mini

If you still are considering attending the North Central Mini, September 15-16 at Superior, WI, here is the pertinent information you need to have. Contact person is Glen Lavin, N9BDM. Registration is \$14 or \$10/single.

The event will be at the Days Inn Motel, Highway U.S. 53. Phone 715-392-4783; fax 715-392-2068. Rooms are \$55 plus tax, mention Ham Radio.

Future Events

Following is a calendar of upcoming events of particular interest to county hunters. An information contact person is noted for each event.

September 15-16, North Central District Mini, Superior, WI. Contact N9BDM.

September 28-30, Pacific District Mini, Las Vegas, NV. Contact KB7QQ.

November 2-4, Southeast District Mini, Murphreesboro, TN. Contact KM4W.

July 1-5, 1996, MARAC National Convention, Phoenix, AZ. Contact W0OWY.

1997 MARAC National Convention, Orlando, FL. Contact KN4JR.

1998 MARAC National Convention, San Antonio, TX. Contact: WB4FBS.

MARAC SOUTHEAST DISTRICT MINI

ANNOUNCING: The 1995 Annual 3M Southeast District Mini at
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

DATES: November 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Hospitality area open at noon
Thursday November 2nd.

LOCATION: Holiday Inn, 2227 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

DIRECTIONS: I-24 and Tennessee Hiway #96. On I-24 Exit #78 from
Chattanooga and #78B from Nashville.

ROOM RATE All rooms \$48.00/Night plus Tax. A block of 100 rooms will
be held until October 10th. After this date, same rates if
rooms available.

RESERVATION: Te. (615) 896-2420. Mention Ham Radio Convention for rates.
(HAM) is three letters to access computer.

ACTIVITIES: Golf Courses nearby. Shopping Centers, Fast Food Restaurants
nearby. Nashville, TN is 30 miles north, Shopping, Grand old
Opry, etc. Make own reservations. Contact Herb Morgan, WD9GBH
for reservations to Mrs. Bobo's Restaurant for Friday Noon
Dinner at Lynchburg, TN, Home of Jack Daniel Distillery.

PRIZES: All Prize Donations will be Appreciated.

DINNER: Saturday Night Dinner, Buffet Style, \$16.00/Person, Tax and
Tip included. Buffet includes 2 Meats, Vegetables, Salad,
Dessert and Drink.

REGIS- \$12.00 for OM/YL or \$9.00 Single. Registration includes
TRATION Name Tag, Group Photo and Drawing for any prize both YL & OM.

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

William E. Bell KM4W
99 Smoke Rise Circle
Manchester, TN 37355-5053
Tel. (615) 728-7379

1995 SOUTHEAST MINI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____

SPOUSE _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

REGISTRATION FEE.....

BANQUET... (#) AT \$16.00.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....

MARAC PACIFIC DISTRICT MINI

- DATES:** September 28th, 29th and 30th, 1995
- LOCATION:** The Showboat Hotel and Casino, 2800 Fremont St., Las Vegas, Nevada
- DIRECTIONS:** From South: via Hoover Dam/Laughlin - US 93/95 joins I-515 Expwy North; take Boulder Hwy/Fremont St. exit, make left (west) onto Fremont St - the Showboat is on the left towards downtown // via I-15 - take Charleston Blvd-East exit; go to Fremont St, make a left turn - Showboat is on left.
From North: via I-15 - take Charleston Blvd-East exit; go to Fremont St, make a left turn - Showboat is on the left // via US 95 - stay on US 95/93/I-515 south till Eastern Ave; go right on Eastern to Fremont St, make left onto Fremont, Showboat is on left.
- ROOM RATE:** \$44/night for up to 2 people; \$10/person per night for 3rd & 4th persons, plus tax.
- RESERVATIONS:** A block of 50 rooms will be held at the \$44.00 rate until August 27. Thereafter, rates will be for whatever rooms are available, **so make your reservations early! CALL 1-800-826-2800 - MENTION MARAC FOR THE SPECIAL PRICE!** If we actually occupy those 50 rooms, some lucky attendee will receive their room **FREE** and we will receive 1 hour of complimentary cocktails before the Saturday banquet. Another 25 rooms filled, we get another free room! One night deposit or credit card required for reservations (refundable up to 48hrs before arrival).
- TRANSPORTATION:** A hotel shuttle will be available from the airport.
- HOSPITALITY:** Opens at noon Thursday, hosted by Joyce, WB9NUL.
- PRIZES:** ALL PRIZE DONATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED.
- DINNER:** Saturday night, buffet style: \$20.00 per person.
- REGISTRATION:** \$13/family or \$9/one person - includes 1 badge & 2 prize tickets; extra badges = \$3 ea.
- COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND WITH REGISTRATION FEE AND COST OF SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER TO:** Ada J. McLernon, NV6L, 714 W. Roderick Ave, Oxnard, CA 93030-4325

1995 Pacific District Mini Registration Form

NAME _____ CALL _____ USACA # _____

SPOUSE/GUEST _____ CALL _____ USACA # _____

ADDRESS _____

REGISTRATION FEE \$ _____

EXTRA PRIZE TICKETS & DONATIONS - \$1 ea or 12 for \$10 \$ _____

EXTRA BADGES @ \$3 ea: Name _____ Call _____ \$ _____

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER # _____ times \$20 = \$ _____

Check if interested in Golf: # _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED ... \$ _____