

# COUNTY LINE ROAD RUNNER

Published Monthly by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.  
An ARRL Affiliated Club

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SSB Net 14.336; CW Net 14.056.5

Volume 25, Number 9

December 1995

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Listed by area of representation

**Great Lakes,** Paula Batema, N8EMV;  
**North Central and DX,** Carl Durnavich, KF9FU.  
**North East,** John Butler, WB2NFB;  
**Pacific,** Gene Eggebraten, W7GVF  
**South Central,** Joyce Booth, WB9NUL;  
**South East,** Jim Thomas, KB4XK;  
*At large members:* Pete Peterson, K4QFK, and Joe Parsons,  
W5UJO.

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## Awards Committee Report

by Carl, KF9FU

The proposals concerning Second Time All Counties asking for the option of confirmed or unconfirmed—and the minimum signal report (22)—asking to terminate that rule for MARAC awards—are presented in Awards Committee review.

We wish to thank all members who have written and phoned comments to their committee representatives. Please continue to communicate with us on future proposals. Our committee merely makes recommendations to the elected Board of Directors. We are not the final say.

All letters received by the committee will be sent to all 16 board members on every proposal, with our recommendations. The committee report on the above proposals will be announced in the second week of December on the nets and published in the *January Road Runner*.

The board will review the recommendations at the January meeting in Dallas. The President mandated a membership ballot vote on the Second Time proposal—this will be discussed and acted on at the January Board meeting.

Please contact your district director with any feelings on the handling of proposals and ways to better serve our members. The committee will not proceed to other proposals on the table and announce accordingly. Written comments are preferred to your Awards Committee representative.

If you are unsure of your district, check your MARAC constitution or send your comment to me for forwarding. Awards Committee guidelines will be available to all after the New Year, and we are here to accept your proposals to better our awards. Please contact your district awards representative with your needs.

## CQ-CW

by Harry, NFØX

After establishing their annual sked on the low end of 40M, Flattop and his visitor were enjoying their eyeball QSO. But the hour grew late and the visitor was anxious to be gone. "Ho-ho-ho, I gotta go, it's Christmas Eve and I have a lot of presents to deliver you know!" Santa said as he started to rise from the big easy chair.

"Now don't be so all blamed fired up to get out into this lousy weather, Santa. Sit a spell longer. Relax, you been working to hard. Here, have another two fingers of my Old Home Remedy, will help ward off old man winter," Flattop urged as he refilled Santa's glass. He had snagged Santa as he made his annual visit and he still had a few things to lay on him.

"Well, maybe just a tad longer," Santa said as he accepted the offered libation. He was weary of explaining to Flattop why he had too few CW goodies and too much of the "unimportant" stuff as Flattop had put it.

"Flattop, you gotta remember the times we live in," Santa continued. "These are the days of instant gratification; I want it and I want it now and I don't wanna work for it and if I don't get it there is gonna be big trouble!" Santa rolled his eyes in disgust and gave his beard a fierce brush. "Boy you should read some of these letters I get from prospective hams and even those who already have their ticket. Whining and sniveling and even some threats that if they don't get their copy of *How to Become a Ham Without Really Trying* or an underground copy of *How to Circumvent the CW Test* so they can upgrade. Some threatened to

shoot my reindeer, a couple threatened to criss-cross their roofs with wire antennas thus entangling my team. When that happens I just bypass their house. Worse than what you year on the SSB frequencies!"

"Wow!" Flattop said. "That bad, huh?"

"Well," Santa said, "I do have a few nice CW goodies requested by XYL's and OM for their ham spouse. I like this miniature CW key and this classic hand-made key from England I'm leaving for you. I have some code tapes; a couple of books on *The History of CW*; a few long whips for mobile resonators so the operator can tune his rig down to the CW sub-bands. Most resonators now are cut for SSB you know and the whips are too short for CW. Sure puts a load on my workshop. Here is a QRP CW kit requested by a youngster. Even have a CW keyboard here. Not much, but it's a start."

Santa drained his glass, give Flattop a wink, placed his finger alongside his nose and smiled cheerfully. "Be of good cheer Flattop. Run your CW with a smile. Enjoy. There are not many of us left. I am here-by giving notice that next year I'm taking lists only on CQ!" and with a nod he was gone.

Flattop eased back in his chair and smiled with pleasure as he heard coming through the cold, still night, loud and clear pure tones "Merry Christmas to all and to all good night!"

Whatever your mode of operation, from our family to yours. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your log be filled with needed QSO's and if you are working for USA-CA, may you soon have that number.

## Net Operating Tips by Mitch, W4RKV

This month, another mixture of short tips:

1. When a mobile is called to run but doesn't know his county, we should not hold up the entire net while he or someone else consults a map—put him down one and run the next mobile.
2. When you are being relayed in and the mobile acknowledges the wrong report from you, don't jump in and start sending the report—he isn't hearing you very well or he would have responded with the right report. Wait until the relay station alerts him to listen again.
3. When acknowledging another station's report, it isn't necessary to prove you heard him by repeating exactly when he said, i.e., "I heard him say I was a weak 3-3." Just a brief "Got the 3-3" will suffice.
4. Occasionally we hear a station, obviously not a county hunter, work a mobile and fail to acknowledge his report from the mobile. When I am NCS, I simply let that pass; he probably was looking only for a signal report anyway and I don't like to waste net time by asking him for an acknowledgment.
5. If phonetics are really necessary to clarify a call, we should stick fairly close to standard phonetics on the net and avoid cutsey ones. Examples like "Whiskey Four Ruthless Killing Vampires" may do more harm than good.

## New USA-CA Award Winner by Norm, WA3RTY

Norm Van Raay, USA-CA Custodian, announced the following new USA-CA award winner:

**MARAC Awards**

**Van N. Peterson,  
K4QFK, Awards  
Chairman  
PO Box 48307,  
Cumberland, NC  
28331-8307  
(910) 424-4483**

I don't know about you folks, but we have had very unseasonable weather here, Cold that is! Feels like we might have a chance for a White Christmas this year. What's so special about snow on Christmas day? Well it only happens once every 10 or 15 years around here, most of the time we can go golfing on Christmas day with short sleeves or a light jacket. And while we are on the subject, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very special Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or whatever this season is to you and your family.

**Announcing New  
Second Time Around  
Holder**

**MARAC Last County Award Honor Roll**

as of 11/01/95

Call	Last Counties	Call	Last Counties	Call	Last Counties	Call	Last Counties
KB7QQ	1360	VELAIT	219	N4EED	160	WA3QNT	124
WA0SBR	1014	WI9C	219	N6ERM	159	NGOT	123
W1TEE	735	N2BL	218	W3XE	159	W0LRH	123
K9DCJ	549	KF0LZ	218	WA8TQD	158	KC4DUP	122
W1WLW	504	NT9V	213	KA0NVT	157	K4ELK	121
N9DEH	426	KA0HJR	213	KF9FU	156	KK6BB	120
W7GVF	422	WA4NBC	199	WB8SNO	156	K1V5J	119
N7AKT	412	KC0MB	196	KD9Q	151	K1EM	119
N0BHO	410	N9CLZ	196	KK4MM	147	W3DYA	119
N3DRO	393	KC1WE	193	W0KMH	144	N7OTR	119
WB9TKR	393	WA2TJL	193	N4ANV	144	KC0JG	117
W00WY	390	KJ5PQ	193	KD8GL	143	WD7N	117
K71OO	369	KG5J	190	W6FBS	142	W2PDM	117
KB5FU	366	WA3TUC	189	K9GTQ	141	N8EMV	113
KK7X	352	WB6ALC	187	WA4HXG	140	K4E4P	113
KB4XK	320	AA4HD	183	N9CHU	140	WA8RSQ	112
K1NWE	303	K1QPV	181	AA4LB	139	KL7IAA	112
N60KX	293	KC5P	180	WB9OOG	138	N0CYB	111
WA9QNI	292	KC3YT	177	K2NJ	137	KG5UZ	111
K4QFK	277	KI6YX	174	KC7JC	136	KC2RS	109
KK0L	271	LQT-WBZ	171	NV6L	135	N4CD	109
WB9RCY	261	KD8HB	171	WG9A	135	WA0YFQ	108
KB3N	260	KALJPR	170	WB9NUL	135	ND1H	107
W7GHT	259	W5ILR	169	NF0X	132	NB6A	107
WB5YDH	259	K5VYT	167	AK8A	132	NG9L	103
VE1RQ	250	WD7X	165	N00CN	131	N7BKW	103
KA3DRO	249	AI5P	165	K2PCF	131	K08EN	103
WB4FFV	244	KA9PZS	164	W7NXZ	130	WB2NFB	102
WA3ZMY	242	WA4IMC	163	W5FS	129	K0HVN	102
W5AWT	237	WB3DWH	163	WA1UVX	128	W2UJ	101
KD8HA	231	W7LQT	162	AA4LY	128	W7ULC	101
K5OUK	224	KJ4EJ	162	WA6VJP	128	KF0YF	101
K6HZI	223	K5CKQ	161	WA7AIM	126	W4HSA	100
WA7NNH	222						

#192 Jim Paulick, KA9PZS, 10/26/95

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! For sending the address changes, both your own and those of others that I needed.

**Computer Disks**

It was brought to my attention at the 3M Mini that some folks would like to submit their "computer lists" on disk instead of printed form for Second Time Around and other awards that require "listed" contacts. **Beginning January 1, 1996, I will accept awards list on computer disk for any MARAC Award as long as the following procedures are followed:** (1) The disk is accompanied by a MARAC Application Form for that award. (Now available for all MARAC Awards); (2) The data is submitted in a *Text file format* that may be viewed with Nortons editor and on a 3 1/2-inch disk; (3) That the data submitted is in alphabetical order by state/county as is required in printed form; and (4) for awards that require a certain number of contacts or points, you must include on the application form the Total Number not just the number required for that level. If your program disk shows totals then this will not be necessary. **I will also return your disks if you include an SASE or return postage for YOUR mailer.** The delay until January 1 is to give me time to install a new and comprehensive virus protection in the computer to protect the awards program database.

**More Good News**

Also beginning January 1, 1996, I will begin to automatically issue the LC-3 Award when you reach a new level. **Now please READ THIS PART!** As stated above I will automatically issue any new level attained, BUT, prior to January 1, YOU must submit applications for award levels that you have already earned so that I do not "skip" any. This is so that I do not have to go back and research all of your records in order to issue the last level of 25. Also please allow time for the plaque/plato to be ordered after you receive the certificate, BUT, if you have not received your plaque 60 days after receiving the certificate, *please ask me where it is!* I am not perfect and may on a rare occasion fail to order a plaque after I have issued the certificate. Also, if you receive an LC "stub" for a new level of 25 and do not receive the LC-3, please call this to my attention. Again, please send in those LC-3 requests that you have already received or will receive for November and December by January 1. I will make this work if you all will cooperate.

P.S. - If you haven't purchased that special gift for that special person yet, you had better hurry!

**It Is CW Total Time Again**

Barry Dutcher, KA1CLV, will be collecting CW totals again

after the first of January. He can be reached often at 14.056.5 or 7.039.5 and via packet @WA1PHY.#EMA.MA.USA.NOAM; via CompuServe at 73622.1167 and via the internet address 73622.1167@compuserve.com; via the DX Packet Cluster @NO1A or @K1MM; via the USPS at 6 Prospect St., Maynard, MA 01754-1315; and, by phone at 508-897-9835 or 508-440-3183.

Please also provide any USA-CA CW completion information. Updates on CW totals and the "CW honor roll" will be provided via the *Road Runner*.

## Pacific Mini Report by Ken, KB7QO

Are you having fun yet? That's one of the slogans of a casino here in Las Vegas. And we sure had a fun bunch for our Septem-ber mini.

Thanks are in order:  
First to the Committee: co-host W4HMV, Bill Smith, and YL, Virginia; KC8IJ, Bill, and YL, Susie; WB9NUL, Joyce; NV6L, Jan; and KC0MB, George.

Second to all who donated the wonderful prizes we were able to give to the lucky winners.

Third to those who put on the forums.

Fourth to everyone who came.

It was really special to me to greet the old friends and make new ones. A thought Joyce may have tripped the fire alarm for an early wake-up call for coffee and doughnuts in the hospitality room, but I assure you they caught the real culprit.

In closing, please keep N5GFI, Brenda, YL of K5BDX, Don, in your prayers. She suffered a very serious heart attack, but as you are reading this we hope she is home and recovering.

## SE Mini Report by Bill, KM4W

Thanks to all who attended. We had another successful good-time Mini. The weather played tricks on us at times, with a little rain, turning cold, and then on Sunday morning as everyone was leaving it began to snow.

There were 202 persons registered for the Mini at the Holiday Inn and 197 attending the Saturday night banquet. There were several awards presented by K4QFK, MARAC Awards Chairman, and some were presented by and to different members. Pat, N4UGH, received the Outstanding Member Award for the Southeast District and Howard, WA4KER, received the Manchester Perpetual Traveling Award.

Jimmie and I hope everyone had a good time and will come back next year. The dates for the 3M for next year are November 7-9. There were 36 new faces at the 3M and some of them came to me and said they would return for sure next year.

Thanks to those who brought door prizes. It would be nice for everyone who received a prize to send a card of thanks (if you haven't already done so) to the person who donated your prize.

N1HHW, N1FJR, K1QPV, K1QWK, KD1TH and XYL, W1WLW and Pat, N2BL, KA2MXD, N2BWE and Marilyn, W2CUK and Ruth, N2CWW and Eileen, WB2HUV, WA2MUA, WB2NFB, KA2QID, NC2O and Ruth, KZ2P, KZUVG and Nancy, W3DYA, WA3ESH and Mary, KB3GN and Mary, WB3IET, WB3ITH, KA3MMM, WA3TUC and Rena, AJ3X, AJ3Y, W3XE, WA3ZMY, KD4ABC, KD4BNV, N4ANV, KC4TBS, K4BZV, N4CD, N2TPH, N4EED and Jane, KJ4EJ and

Sue, K4ELK, KD4NFE, W4GGU, W4HXG and Bev, W4JGW and Betty, WA4IMC, W4IZR and Jim, KN4JR and Louise, WA4KER and Emmy Lou, AB4LG, AA4LY, W40WY and Barbara, N4PN and Martha, AB4QD and Anne, K4QFK and son Robert, KN4RI and Pattie, W4RKV, WU4S, N4UGH, KN4W and Jimmie, AC4WF, KB4XK, WA4LZI, N4XP, W4YWW and Ann, NV4Z, KD4ZJ and Verdilla, N4AWE and Jean, N5BLK, W5FS, K5GE, K5HT and Janet, W51LR and Kea, K5SJ and Evelyn, W5JGS and Jean, K5KDG and Willa, K5OUK and Anna, K5OUK's mother Evelyn and Betty and Glen, A1SP, KC5P and Ceal, K65UZ, KJ5PQ, W5VD, NB6A, W07X, N8BGF, KA8SHT, N8CIJ and Carol, K8DTP and Jean, K8SHA, KH8HB, N8LXQ, K8MDU, K8OHC, KC8AGO, K8OOK, N8IPG, W8SRJW and Audrey, KJ8V and Sandy, W69A and Sandy, W9ABM and Connie, N9CLZ and Phyllis, AA9CW and Judi and son Matt, K9DCJ and WDX9DCJ, W99DCZ, K9ETB and Mary, W99GBH and Joan, W9GPC and Deanie, W9GSU and Susan, AA9JJ, N9QPQ, W9UCW, WB9NUL, K9OD, and Charlene, W9OP, WB9YDT, W9SUQ, KA9QKN, W9ZD and Evie, KE0AY and Rosemary, KG0BB and Jean, W0BL and Ida, WB0CQO, W0DFK and Delores, N0DIA, W0DSY and Vi, W0FF, K0RRO, N0LDT, WB0LIW and Alma, W0OWY, WA0SBR, W0UBT and Helen, W0ULU and Darlene, W0WYJ, HB9RG, and VE1BES.

## 1st Quarter Ballot Results

Congratulations to the following folks who are the winners in the first quarter balloting for Best Net Controls and Mobiles. All votes received will count toward determination of the Annual Winners, which will be announced at the MARAC Annual Meeting.

**SSB N/C:** 1st, KZ2P; 2nd, WA7IRD; 3rd, WA4KER

**SSB Mobile:** 1st, N4CD; 2nd, N3DR0; 3rd, KC1NA

**CW N/C:** 1st, WA6VJP; 2nd, WU3H; 3rd, W7BD

**CW Mobile:** 1st, N4CD; 2nd, K0OST 3rd, TIE AA0PY, W6TMD

A ballot for the second quarter is enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. Please return it by January 10, 1996, to K0AYO.

## Counties Needed to Finish ...

### ... USA-CA

**W5AL:** Franklin (Alabama); Howard, Newton, Sevier (Arkansas); Broward (Florida); Wilkes (Georgia); Miami, Warren (Indiana); Anderson, Clay, Estill, Harrison, Mason, Meade, Mercer, Nicholas, Robertson, Todd (Kentucky); Fillmore, Meeker (Minnesota); McDonald, Stoddard (Missouri); Kings (New York); Darke, Meigs (Ohio); Mifflin (Pennsylvania); Abbeville, Saluda (South Carolina); Johnson, Lauderdale, Meigs, Rhea (Tennessee).

### ... Third Time

**WB9STT:** Mariposa (California); Early (Georgia); Marion (Iowa); Perry (Kentucky); Keweenaw (Michigan) Davis, Morgan (Utah); Rappahannock (Virginia).

**K0OJG:** Wayne (Mississippi)

## Members Speak!

**WA9QNI:** How often on the net do we hear the request "Spread 'em out folks" (SEOF)? It's usually either preceded or followed with "You're all coming at once" or "I can only copy one call at a time." Also, a net control or other fixed station taking relays for a mobile may use this request and for the same reason.

The important question is *Does It Work?* When it is followed only by "QRZ," my answer would be a definite "NO." It does seem to work pretty well with the SEOF request is followed with "I will take a list." Or when, for whatever reason, it is not feasible to take a list, the SEOF request still works pretty well if followed by completely ignoring all stations who ignore his request. That is, those who continue to pop their calls in the instant he/she releases the push-to-talk button. (Some even start calling *before* the PTT button is released.) Then, after ignoring all in the first rush, he/she just listens until a call can be picked out clearly, one who has cooperated with the SEOF request by waiting two or more seconds before transmitting their calls. This "ignore the ignorers and wait for the cooperators" takes up a little more time at first, but after using it on three or four QRZs, the pile up stations begin to get the message.

Unfortunately, most of the stations who ask SEOF do not listen for those who do as asked, i.e., wait two or more seconds. Instead, they quickly recognize the very first call they hear and exchange reports with that station, doubling with all those who respected the request by waiting. Let's face it, we don't have many mentally lacking folks operating on our net. They quickly reason that the only reward they can expect for cooperating with the SEOF request is to become the very last to be recognized. So, on the next QRZ, they will join the pile up because they figured out that it's the only way to get a contact. Otherwise, if they continued to cooperate long enough, the mobile may run out of the county or out of time and their only reward for cooperation is to miss the county, even though they might be in the 59/59 category. We can bet the farm that thereafter, they will also ignore SEOF requests from other stations, even those who would wait a couple of seconds to hear those who cooperate with the request.

**KB7QO:** Thank you for the calls, flowers, and the many get-well cards ... but mostly for your prayers and personal wishes for a speedy recovery. There were some complications to the triple by-pass, but I now belong to the Long Zipper Club. A special thanks to each and every one of you.

**W0KZZ:** I would like to see a list of stations with their packet address. Mine is W0KZZ@W0ILO.FGO.ND.U.S.A.NA.

## Twenty-Five Years Ago by Steve, WN7J

First let me start by giving a big "thank you" to Lou, W9ZD, for sending me his collection of MARAC newsletters up to 1994, including the independent county hunter's newsletter from April 1969 to April 1971. This saves me raiding W0OWY's collection, and is much appreciated.

The December 1970 meeting was held at the house of W0SJE and attended by nine members of MARAC. There was discussion about applying for a club call, and K0AYO would be the custodian. On the issue of whether to send the newsletter to non-members, it was decided to put the question to the member-

ship. The draft DX mobile award was ready for finished art work, and the last county award was the next priority, after the initial awards had generated enough revenue to cover more expansion of the awards program. Net control and mobile operator of the year ballots were scheduled to go out in the April newsletter, in time for the awards to be presented at the July meeting. Membership had reached 143. (This is lower than the number I previously reported, since I wasn't aware that regular members numbers started at 101, the first 100 numbers being charter members.)

No letter from the president this month. The editor's letter wished all members all the very best for a happy holiday season and "may Santa Claus leave that last contact for some coveted award in your stocking!" One of the MARAC goals is to promote better mobile operation. A set of guidelines had been prepared for mobile, net control, and fixed stations on the nets. This was a distillation of input from meetings and members letters. The resulting guidelines were to be presented for discussion in the newsletter, and at the Kansas City convention.

In the issue of providing the newsletter for non-members, it was noted that a year's newsletter postage was \$1.75 (and expected to go up shortly). Supplying the newsletter to non-members for \$1 a year was not a good idea. Members were presented with three options, and to select an option with a decision expected in January. The options were

- 1) Increase the charge for non-members to \$2 a year.
- 2) Charge everyone \$3 a year.
- 3) Make the newsletter members only.

A letter was received from W6TEE, who edited the RAMS (Radio Amateur Mobile Society) newsletter. RAMS were mobilers in the CA and NV area who were not county hunters, but were available for contacts.

The AREA (Amateur Radio Editors Association) would carry an item about MARAC in their next AREA report. (Are these two groups, RAMS and AREA still in existence?)

In the members speak section are trips and needed lists and the following letters:-

- 1) From WPE2OKV, who was attempting to be the first SWL to confirm all 3,079. He was using a Lafayette 350 with a home-made dipole, and thanked all the mobilers who has confirmed his reports.
- 2) From KR6IX (KR=Okinawa until May 15, 1972), who was enjoying working ZL counties, and DX. The New Zealand County Award is still available for working 20 counties and then increments of 20 up to all counties-112. A second time award is also available, and possession of the cards is necessary.
- 3) From GW3NWV, praising MARAC and the newsletter, which keeps him in touch with the progress of other DX county hunters.

The latest USA-CA number was 48, W4GGU.

Members were asked to select the net control and mobiler of the year, noting that K7WQJ won mobiler of the year last year and was not eligible any more. In making selections the following characteristics were suggested.

### Net Control

1. Does he hold control of the net.
2. Does he keep "his cool" on the air.
3. Does he recognize and arrange for all check-ins promptly.
4. Does he use a minimum amount of conversation.
5. Does he use courteous speech.
6. Does he remain impartial.

### Mobiler

1. Does he keep "his cool."
2. Does he use good operating procedure.
3. Does he have a good signal.

4. Does he adjust to net conditions.
5. Does he QSL.

Looking at the list I note that this must predate women's suffrage, and the first women's driving license, and that the 60's have not quite ended (cool).

Well that wraps up the 25 years ago column for 1970. I wish you all a happy holiday season, and may you attain everything you wish for in the new year.

## Meeting Announcement

The next MARAC General Membership Meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, December 10, at the home of C.W. "Bill" Peale, 13432 Emeline St. Dallas, TX.

## Address Changes and New Members

- R-756 W2PDM, Stuart Casper, 196 Penelope Lane, Taylorsville, NY 28681-9634, =Alexander  
 R-953 NC9F, Tim J. Sullivan, 714 Butterfield Rd., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, =du Page  
 R-1697 WS0BT, Bob Lee, P.O. Box 95, Chokoloskee, FL 33925, =Collier  
 R-2340 AB5SQ, Roy "Jonesy" Jones, 9306-3 Dartbrook Dr., San Antonio, TX 78240, =Bexar  
 R-2631 VO1SF, Jim Watkins, 55 Barondale Dr. #51, Missassauga, ONT, Canada L4Z 3P4

## New Members

- R-2707 WA9DLB, Tony Mazzocco, 275 E. County Line Rd., Barrington, IL 60010, Cook  
 R-2708 KE9SZ, Bill Steele, P.O. Box 345, Frankfort, IL 60423, =Will  
 R-2709 KB6HW, Esther Wolf, 18130 Bronley St., Tarzana, CA 91356, =Los Angeles  
 R-2711 WD9HAW, Royal L. "Roy" Purdy, N1593 Pleasant St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538, =Jefferson  
 R-2712 N9VRZ, Dean R. Devries, 51138 Lily Rd., South Bend, IN 46637-1910, =St. Joseph

## ARIZONA '96 by Steve, WN7J

We are still moving forward with convention preparations, setting minor details, and checking out venues for activities. Remember, the convention runs from Monday, July 1, to Friday, July 5, at the Holiday Inn, Mesa, and reservations should be booked directly with the hotel (602-964-7000) quoting the code "HAMM" to get the \$49 room rate. According to the hotel, the king suites are getting in short supply. Also, if you want to pre-register and take advantage of the QSL card offer, drop a line to P.O. Box 87273, Phoenix, AZ 85080-7273 for an order form.

At the end of last month we were left looking upwards on the edge of the Grand Canyon. Most of the tourists had stopped to stare at us saying "Crazy Americans" in several languages. Apparently, this is only possible if the federal government is working with a budget.

Looking south from the edge of the canyon (6,400 feet asl), if you can get out of the trees which are mostly Ponderosa pine, you can see the San Francisco peaks (12,000 feet asl) about 65

miles in the distance. Local legend has it that the canyon is not natural, but was dug by a Scotsman who had dropped a nickel. The resulting pile of earth became those very same peaks.

Continuing down the Colorado, we pass the Hayagapai reservation, which is almost entirely contained within the canyon. Eventually the river empties into Lake Mead, 110 miles long, which was created by the Hoover Dam. A few miles upstream of this point is where three members of the Powell expedition, disheartened by the seemingly endless canyon and the rotting supplies, elected to climb out and attempt to make it overland to known Mormon settlements higher up the Virgin River. They were massacred by hostile Indians. Two days later Powell, with his remaining companions, encountered friendly Indians, who contacted one of the settlements, which sent a wagon with supplies.

Hoover Dam, on the main route between Phoenix and Las Vegas, offers an excellent tour, during which you explore inside the dam, and descend to the foot of the dam to see the generators and the water welling out after passing through them. When I went to the Vegas mini I crossed the dam at night, when it is lit up, a sight I will not quickly forget.

Continuing south from Hoover Dam, you come to Lake Havasu City, home of the London Bridge. This is a favorite place for college summer break, with a host of boating activities, hotels and eating establishments. As the river continues south, we pass Blythe, CA, and Yuma, AZ, both useful stops on the Interstates connecting Phoenix and Los Angeles (370 miles) and Phoenix and San Diego (350 miles). The records in the Yuma courthouse show that there is a dry county line nearby, that of Imperial, CA and Yuma, AZ.

Eventually the mighty Colorado River, 300 feet wide at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, exits the south-west corner of the state, and evaporates in the desert before reaching the Gulf of California.

Arizona is divided into a high plateau, and low deserts by a east to west escarpment which extends from the New Mexico border to the Verde Valley, between Phoenix and Flagstaff. This escarpment is called the Mogollon Rim (pronounced Muggy-OWN). Further west of Verde Valley, it becomes less distinct as the two levels of land merge towards the Colorado. Flagstaff sits at the 7,000-foot level and Phoenix at the 1,000-foot level. You get much better mileage traveling from Flagstaff to Phoenix rather than the other way round. North of the rim the plateau rarely dips below 4,000 feet, south of the rim the land rarely exceeds this height.

Flagstaff is a pleasant place to visit in summer with daytime temperatures some 30 degrees lower than Phoenix. It is about 120 miles from the northern Phoenix city limits, which are another 45 minutes from the convention hotel. Nestled at the foot of the mountains in pine and aspen, Flagstaff is something of an oasis in barren lands, 30-40 miles in any direction takes you out of the forest back into the desert. Places to visit in Flagstaff are: the Riordan State Historic Park including a 13,000-square-foot log mansion; the Pioneer Historical Museum containing old photographs, logging tools, and pioneer artifacts; the Museum of Northern Arizona containing archeological displays, along with pottery, baskets, jewelry, and kachinas; and the Lowell observatory, famous for Martian "canals" and the discovery of Pluto.

Driving north from Flagstaff on Route 180 through the mountains and to the canyon you pass the Snow Bowl, a ski resort which offers rides up and down the ski lift during summer. This takes you nearly to the top of Mount Agassi, 11,000 feet and change, with spectacular views, and the chance of summer hail. The actual top of the mountain may not be visited, because it is

sacred Indian land.

After visiting the canyon, continue on 180 and return to Flagstaff via Route 89 calling at Wupatki National monument, which contains some 2,500 prehistoric sites, abandoned in 1250. Several of the sites were restored, rather than stabilized as they would be today. Four main groupings may be reached by flat self-guided trails. Wupatki is a loop off 89 which returns to 89 after passing Sunset Crater. This is a dormant volcano; there are no active volcanoes in Arizona. It is so dormant it last erupted in 1064, and drove the Indians from their dwellings in Wupatki. Shortly afterwards they returned to farm the rich ash soil, and it is not known why they later left. It is called Sunset Crater because of the red cinders on the top of the cone. There is a good self-guided trail through the lava fields, and the drive back to 89 takes you past large lava flows and some of the other 400 dormant "peaks" in the volcano field.

Finally, head east along I-40 for four miles to Walnut Canyon and, if you can climb down and back up a 200-foot steep path, visit some cliff dwellings located under natural overhangs. If you can do all of the above in a day you will need to head back to Flagstaff for some chow and sleep.

That pretty well wraps up this month. I hope these articles keep you informed about the convention, and give you some ideas of places to visit, should you choose to spend more time in Arizona. Finally, 73 fer Xmas es hv a gud 96, hpe cu at AZ 96.

## **Future Events**

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

**March 7-9, 1996**, South Central District Mini, Contact WD5JGS.

**April 11-13, 1996**, Great Lakes District Mini, Holland, MI. Contact N8EMV.

**July 1-5, 1996**, MARAC National Convention, Phoenix, AZ. Contact W00WY.

**November 7-9, 1996**, South East District Mini, Murphreesboro, TN, Contact KM4W

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

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

## **The Last Word by Dick, KB3WN**

Hope your Thanksgiving Holiday celebration went well, and that you all will have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's holiday.

Once again I want to urge you NOT to send address changes to me ... I do not keep any sort of master list of MARAC member information. Please send the information to the MARAC secretary, whose address always is listed on the inside front cover of each issue of the newsletter.

It is good to hear the weekend activity on 40M ... I am not able to get on much during the week, so my only frame of reference is that which occurs on weekends on the nets. Because most of the counties I need for Second Time are too close for 20M, I tend to listen a lot there. I am getting close to finishing, so you might see my name listed one of these months in K4QFK's column.