



The County Line

RoadRunner



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

Editor: Clifford A. Taylor, WB4FBS, 22707 Red Mountain Dr., Elmendorf, TX 78112-6034

☎ (210) 621-2741 📧 wb4fbs@aol.com

Volume XXX

January 1999

Number 1

MARAC OFFICERS MEET

December 5, 1998

The MARAC Monthly Meeting was held on November 7, 1998 at the Kountry Café located in Pevely, MO. The meeting was called to order by President Jim Glasscock, WOFF, at 10:22AM. Those members present were President Jim Glasscock, WOFF, Vice President Ed Brown, WOWYJ, Secretary Mike Leahy, NODIA, Treasurer Roy Glasscock, KCOJG, Headquarters Directors Frank Tissot, KEOAY, Bob Roth, WODFK, and Jerry Grasso, WWOQ.

President Jim Glasscock, WOFF asked those present if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the November 1998 Meeting. Secretary Mike Leahy NODIA told those present that he had inadvertently mentioned in the last paragraph a matter concerning the request for seed money from Ken Williams W7LQT for the 1999 MARAC Annual Convention in Post Falls, ID. This matter was discussed with Ken WWilliams but it was after the

meeting. Secretary Mike said that the discussion was being presented at this meeting and was struck from the publication of the November minutes. The minutes were approved as published in the Road Runner by those members present.

NEW BUSINESS

President Jim Glasscock informed those present that Pacific Director Ken Williams, W7LQT, presented a request to the club for \$2,500 in seed money to help start the preparation for the 1999 MARAC National Convention in Post Falls, ID. After a brief discussion, Treasurer Roy Glasscock made a motion, which was seconded by Secretary Mike Leahy, to fund the request. The motion was passed by those present.

A request was received from Awards Chairman Roger Purdy, W2NWL, to have the club purchase a new dot matrix printer to replace the over 10 year old printer that is used to print awards certificates. Roger had informed the club that the printer was old and was beginning to

cause failures during the certificate printing process. Roger also made a request for a postage machine capable of calculating postage up to fifteen pounds which would save the club postage money and make the mailings for awards easier. Secretary Mike Leahy told those members present that he would contact Roger and have him find the equipment he feels he needs to run his operation smoothly. Roger also made a request to have permission to either return to the original owner or destroy those records that are no longer needed by the club for the awards program. After some discussion those members present agreed that all records over 1 year old that were not needed for future reference should either be returned to the original submitter or destroyed by the custodian of that record. A letter will be sent to all Board members informing them of this procedure.

Discussion was held on the publication of the annual report just prior to the Annual MARAC Convention. Several suggestions were put forth by those members present, one of which was to publish it in the June RoadRunner (Continued on page 13)

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PUBLISHING POLICY

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and may not reflect those of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club. Items appearing in the RoadRunner may be copied provided credit is given to the author and the RoadRunner. The RoadRunner is published monthly and articles from members are welcomed. Articles from other sources are welcome also, provided the source allows their re-publication and credit is given to the original author and the source. The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles for size and content. We shall not publish any article that is racial, sexist, or otherwise in poor taste. Articles may be mailed hard copy or disk to WB4FBS at 22707 Red Mountain Drive, Elmendorf, TX 78112-6034. Articles may also be sent via email to wb4fbs@aol.com. Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

RENEWALS

If your mailing label indicates 199901 or 199902, it is time to renew. Dues with 1st class mailing of the MARAC newsletter are \$19/year. Dues with 3rd class mailing of the newsletter are \$16/year. Third class mailing is available in the USA only. Dues with the newsletter mailed via air mail to all continents other than North America are \$30/US/year. Multiple year renewals are welcome. Please make your money order or check payable to MARAC and mail to: MARAC Secretary NODIA, see address below.

MARAC INFORMATION PACKET

For possible new members or interested county hunters, a County Hunting Information Packet is available. This packet includes information about MARAC, MRC/QSLing, net operations, county hunter supplies and more. Please send all requests with a business sized S.A.S.E. and \$0.55 return postage to: MARAC Secretary, NODIA, (See address below). Europeans may get an information packet from Eddie Scholes G4KHG in UK.

ARRL MEMBERSHIPS

We wish to thank the MARAC member, WA3TUC, who has supported MARAC by submitting his ARRL renewal application through the MARAC Secretary. These applications for new or renewal memberships are processed on a monthly basis. Cutoff for each processing cycle is the last day of the previous month. For example, if your ARRL renewal notice requests its return by Aug 15, it should be received by the MARAC Secretary prior to July 30. For each ARRL membership, MARAC gets a rebate of \$2 for a renewal and \$5 for a new membership. To take advantage of this, mail your ARRL membership

application and a check made out to MARAC for the required dues to: MARAC Secretary NODIA, see address below.

CHANGES ?

Please send all changes regarding your mailing address, phone number, or other database information to the MARAC Secretary, Mike Leahy NODIA, 180 S Lafayette, Florissant MO 63031-6803. This will cover mailing of the Road Runner and the awards database. Posting the information on the WWW or sending to other sources does not guarantee that it is received at MARAC headquarters. Thank you.

NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of all MARAC members, I welcome the following new members:

R-02840, **KR4OE**, David Cowart, 637 E. Raynor Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28311-2144, =Cumberland
☎ 910-822-0494 ✉ dcowart@csonc.org

R-02841, **K4FNF**, Horton 'Sleepy' Pribble, 684 Berry Hill Road, Danville, VA 24541-8772, =Pittsylvania
☎ 804-685-7871

R-02842, **KI8FQ**, Larry Gahagan, 16745 High-grade Road, Littleton, CO 80127, =Jefferson,
☎ 303-697-7412 ✉ ki8fq@qsl.net

ADDRESS CHANGES

R-01794, **NI1A**, Barry Dutcher, 3434 Roxane Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34235-8957 ☎ 941-954-5828
(For the winter)

R-01961, **W0RSD**, 7 Circle Drive, Newton, KS 67114, =Harvey

R-02186, **NA5F**, Allen Landreth, 4220 18th St., NE, Naples FL 34120-6408

R-02545, **NH6SR**, 1168 W. Knoll Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32221, =Duval ☎ 904-378-5116

QRP

by Larry Cahoon, WD3P

I want to do something like Barry does for the CW crowd for the QRP group. If you are working on USA-CA QRP, please send me a note at wd3p@juno.com or catch me on the air and let me know how many counties you have worked QRP as of January 1, 1999. I'll also put something up on the Forum, in the countyhunter reflector and in the QRP reflector around then and see how many I come up with. I'll compile a list and try to put up something formally around the first of February.



CQ AWARDS

I'm very pleased to announce that:

John Scott, **WM9U**, has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3076 and is awarded #963 dated December 1, 1998.

Carl Johnson, **W3DR**, has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3076 and is awarded #964 dated December 7, 1998. His certificate is endorsed for All 20 SSB with Mobiles.

Bruce S. Gibson, **WA3GNW**, has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3076 and is awarded #965 dated December 15, 1998. His 500 through 2500 endorsements date back to 1973, and makes very nostalgic reading for this long time CH. He even used K1GUD for Tolland County, CT (that's my old call).

the Seacoast Wireless Club, **W0BQL**, (Custodian: Percy Ford, KA1JPR), has submitted a valid application for USA-CA 3076 and is awarded #966 dated December 19, 1998. Percy had the call changed in October and the official records will carry the call at time of earning USA-CA All 3076.

Ted Melnosky, K1BV
USA-CA Custodian

MARAC AWARDS

Congratulations to Ed Eastwold WA0SBR, on completing his quest to transmit All 3076 Counties. Ed is only the third amateur to complete this Award.

The following Awards were presented since my last report:

USA All Counties: #91 KA1JPR, #92 N8STF

Second Time: KJ4EJ, N1FJR, W0WYJ, W6TPC, KOVB, N3XX, N8STF, WA2AKB, KC4UG (Ken earned #240 dated November 27, 1998)

Third Time: N4MYZ, W9GBH, WV1Y, KB9ER, K5GE.

Master County Hunter, 'Bingo': KB9ER, KOVPP, W4SSU, W0WYJ, N8STF, KJ5C.

Mobile Award Category 3 (Transmitting from all US counties): WA0SBR

YL Award (All 3076): KC5UO

Merit Award Category One: K5CWR, K7IOO, K1ER, W6TPC, N8ELQ (Submitted by N8STF and awarded for assisting WA0SBR)

Last County Award (For transmitting Last Counties):

25: W4XQ, W0ULU, NX4P, KD6SV, KC0JG, KB9ER, W0DFK, W5HGB, WA4WQG, W6YLJ

50: AA9JJ, N7PIB, KC0JG, WA4WQG, W5HGB

75: KC0JG, WA4WQG, W5HGB.

100: KC0JG, WA4WQG, W5HGB, NJ8V, N4UJK

125: N8STF, K0GEN, KZ2P, KC0JG, K5GE, K1ER, KA3MMM

150: KC4UG, KC0JG, KG5UZ

200: WA3TUC, K2NJ

250: NT9V, KI0JD

275: KA3DRO, AI5P

300: N4CD

325: N4CD

350: K9PZS, KA1JPR

400: KB4XK

450: N3DRO, KJ5PQ

475: N3DRO

500: W1WLW, N3DRO

550: N3DRO.

1175: WA0SBR.

Roger Purdy, W2NWL
MARAC Awards Custodian

On behalf of the Board of Directors, all other MARAC members, and non-MARAC county hunters, I would like to congratulate all of the award winners.

The Editor

ALASKA

TOWNS and JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

by Rick, AI5P

For those County Hunters who have access to the Internet, you can find a very helpful page about towns and Judicial Districts in Alaska. Look at:

http://www.comregaf.state.ak.us/CF_CUSTM.htm

A lot of the older QSLs you might have probably do not have the judicial district stated. On this page, you can query the town and get district and a lot of other information.

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Avon, W7WBZ

Arnie, K9DCJ, reported that Ukie, W4SWW, USA-CA 193, became a silent key.

WB2NFB's mom passed away. Our prayers were and are still with John and Karen.

K7DZE, Jack, is back on the road to recovery after surgery on his neck in November, but his XYL, Josephine was discovered to have esophagus cancer and had the bottom part of the esophagus and over half of her stomach removed.

Beth, W4RKV's XYL, had surgery to repair an abnormal aorta aneurism. Beth is now at home and doing fine.

N2TPH, Ida slipped and fell. She has had a bad year.

The New Year is here and I would like to thank everyone who has kept me informed on our fellow County Hunters and their family members. Continue to keep me informed so we can get a card sent to them.

Cards of encouragement, etc., are always appreciated, so drop them a card to let them know that you are thinking of them.

avonwb7wbz@hotmail.com

ASK THE DOCTOR

by Count E. Hunter, PHD

County Hunters are encouraged to write or email the Doctor over the rigors and problems encountered in County Hunting. The Good Doctor himself, a noted and esteemed County Hunter has a wealth of valuable world experience in all paths of life. His immensely sage and savvy advice appears in this column. Dr. Hunter has been solicited all of his life for his educated "smart" remarks.

You Light Up My Life..and other stuff

Dear Doctor,

Recently, as I sat in my hamshack, I looked outside through my window as my "punk" daughter and her latest "metal spiked haircut beau" embraced on the front doorstep. I hit the 1500 AMP and tapped out on the old key a quick CQ call for a county I needed, and they wildly jerked apart. I watched again as they began to embrace closely again, and as they did, I begin to answer the call. Once again, they had jerked apart and began to grab themselves in parts of their chest and lower bodies. I took the QSO off frequency and began to send at 30 wpm and then down to 12 or so and watched with amazement as these "kids" grabbed themselves and rolled on the ground. The guy's hair had a blue corona coming from the metal spikes in his hair. When I realized the connection between my sending and their actions, I immediately stopped operating. My XYL took my daughter to a

doctor and he found RF burns on some very private upper and lower parts of her body. What happened?

Signed,

CW Hunter (no relation)

Dear CW,

I suspect you have what is a new problem to Hams, and that is RF burns in nipple rings and other body parts pierced by metallic rings. This condition can be exacerbated if each couple makes mutual contact with intimate parts of their bodies. Aside from grounding them to belt buckles or water pipes, may I suggest you buy ornamental RF beads to assist, and cutback on the AMP. Frankly, if it were my daughter I would send away.

The Doctor Warmly Talks about His Family

The Doc's 14 year old son, Buck Hunter, is studying to be an ichthyologist. In the basement, he is trying to clone the Big Coho Salmon and the Baja Tuna. His aim is to create a fish known as the Big Cahuna. The Cahuna spends its summers in the cool northwest, and its winters in the warm waters off of the San Diego area. Every sixth year in an urge to mate, it heads south and beaches itself on the Southern California beaches where the commercial interests back up and haul them away in trucks.

wb4fbs@aol.com or dweitzel@pe.net

CAR NOISE

by Dick, K5VYT

I recently purchased a new 1999 Subaru Outback Sport wagon. The car produces no ignition noise, but there is a steady heterodyne that zero beats at 14,336.275 (!). This sounds like a weak carrier when I am on the net frequency. The noise starts as soon as the key is turned on (the motor does not have to be running). It is very noticeable when the band is quiet. I can work through it most of the time, but it makes it tough to copy the weak ones. If anyone has any information on what this might be or how to suppress it, I would be very grateful.

amcent@ecentral.com

I
WISH
EVERYONE
A
HAPPY,
HEALTHY, SAFE
AND
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!

THE EDITOR

1999 Annual MARAC National Convention
Post Falls, Idaho June 30 to July 3, 1999

NAME _____ CALL _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY : _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 Name on badge _____ USA-CA _____ #of Stars _____

(Registration includes name badge, group photo ... AND.... If post marked by May 15, 1999,
 a pre-registration ticket, IC-706 Mk II, drawing on Wed . Do not need to be present to win.)

Additional Badges \$5.00 each **\$25.00**

Name _____ Call _____ USA-CA _____ # of Stars _____
 Name _____ Call _____ USA-CA _____ # of Stars _____ # _____ x\$5.00 _____

WED. JUNE 30 BAR-B-Q (On the rivers edge) # _____ x \$17.50 _____
 THURS. JULY 1 BOAT TRIP (Lake Coeur d'Alene) # _____ x \$18.00 _____
 FRI. JULY 2 TRIP TO SILVER VALLEY # _____ x \$18.50 _____
 SAT. JULY 3 BANQUET (Sit down) # _____ x \$27.50 _____
 Please indicate: Filet Mignon # _____ Chicken # _____

PRIZES:\$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00

PRIZES (GRAND PRIZE: IC-756) # _____ x \$ _____
 YL PRIZES (GRAND \$300.00 CASH)# _____ x \$ _____

EXTRA PHOTOS: \$5.00 EA.

USA-CA HOLDERS # _____ x \$ _____
 YL # _____ x \$ _____
 CW OPERATORS # _____ x \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Need IDAHO STATE road map? YES _____
 Interested in golf? YES _____ How Many? _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MARAC CONVENTION

MAIL TO: Avon Anderson W7WBZ
 1035 N. Highland Ct.
 Post Falls, ID 83854

MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS
and RV RESERVATIONS AT
TEMPLINS RESORT
1-800-283-6754

BE SURE TO MENTION MARAC TO GET THE SPECIAL RATES

MARAC is a NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc
c/o Avon Anderson- Secretary - Treasurer
MARAC National Convention 1999
1035 N. Highland CT.
Post Falls, ID 83854

CONVENTION from JUNE30, 1999
TO July 3, 1999
Held at Templins Resort Hotel

PLEASE USE THIS FOR TAX PURPOSES

DONOR or COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

THIS DONATION IS: Cash _____ Merchandise _____ Donor gift certificate _____

NOTE: Gift certificates will expire six months from date of issuance.

COMPLETE ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Thank you for your donation.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

How will gift be received by MARAC?

Mailed or delivered by donor _____ MARAC rep. to pick up _____ Gift certificate need to be filled out. _____
Scheduled pick-up/delivery date _____ Date received _____
Other Instructions _____

1999 MARAC NATIONAL CONVENTION

IDAHO the GEM STATE, offers scenic beauty, fishing and a multitude of other fun and entertaining things to do. We have chosen to stay close to all the activity and to provide a fun visit for one and all. We know your time is valuable so we have not set long trips so you can enjoy some of the things that might be of more interest to you. If there is anything in particular that you would like more information on jot a note with your registration and we will get the information to you.

KK7X

Dennis KK7X and Sandy are planning a get together on Tuesday for the early arrivals to the area. He is offering a pot luck, and there will be horse back riding and a good ol' fashioned get together. Check Dennis web site for full details.

WED. BAR-B-Q

We will have mouth watering beef and chicken prepared by some of the best chefs in the North west. The dinner will take place at the waters edge with ample room to roam around and enjoy the evening. Idaho has a tendency to cool down in the evening so a light jacket or sweater is suggested.

BOAT TRIP on LAKE COEUR d'ALENE

The Boat trip will leave the docks, near the Coeur d'Alene Resort, and will take us over the one of the most beautiful lakes in Idaho. Lake Coeur d'Alene is noted for the floating green and of course the Coeur d'Alene Resort. As we jog our memory the Northshore offered CRANE WATCHER pins during the convention in 1985. An afternoon on the lake can be very relaxing.

SILVER VALLEY TRIP

HISTORIC WALLACE THE SILVER CAPITOL OF THE WORLD is about 45 miles west of Post Falls and offers plenty of exciting things to see and do. There is the silver mine and museum, the historic museum and the The Oasis Bordello Museum. There are plenty of places to eat and shop. The movie Dantes Peak was filmed in Wallace.

GOLF COURSES

The Coeur d'Alene area has several golf courses to let one practice their swing. There is 2 courses within 4 miles of Templins Resort. Jan NV6L and Jack NV6I will do the coordinating.

RV PARKING

Templins is offering parking for motorhomes, electric only for \$12.00 per night or \$6.00 per day with no electricity. The parking will be on the grass so it should be slightly cooler than parking on asphalt. Call Templins to reserve an RV spot. There is the Coeur d'Alene RV Park, with full hook ups, just 2 ½ miles from the convention center. Please specify if that information is needed when the registration is made and we can get the information to you.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

The factory outlet mall is just 5 miles from the hotel. There will be buses available for a trip. At the outlet mall, rides in the horse drawn wagon will take from one end of the outlet to the other.

SILVERWOOD is located about 25 miles from Post Falls and offers many rides including the train ride through the woods to see the animals. The roller coaster ride will take your breath away. Many other rides and things to do.

MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 1998

by Roy Glasscock, KC0JG, Treasurer

Checking Account Balance, October 31, 1998	\$1940.92
INCOME	
Roger Purdy for Awards & Plaques	1295.00
Transferred from Savings (ID Conv.)	2500.00
Mike Leahy, Dues (MARAC & /ARRL)	480.00
TOTAL	6215.92
EXPENSES	
Roger Purdy, W2N2L (Phone, Postage)	612.54
ARRL Renewals	89.00
Bob Dyson, (Mail Labels, Posage)	102.94
Bank Service Charge	12.73
Legal Printing	619.10
Fairmont Awards	763.00
Seed Money for National in ID	\$2500.00
TOTAL	4699.31
Checking Account Balance, November 30, 1998	1516.61
Savings Account Balance, November 30, 1998	\$22098.63
Scholarship Fund	1503.12

DATELINE CW

by Ed, KN4Y

New Year has untold charms
To captivate a county hunters heart;
Her lovely months are Cupid's arms, and every day a
dart:

But when the beauteous idiot speaks,
She cures me of my pain;
Her tongue the servile fetters breaks
And frees one to run a county line again.

I can not believe it is 1999. The CW county hunter's net is active with Hpy Nu Yr to all. That translates from code to sideband as Happy New Year. The new mobile rigs Santa delivered spring to life: The net is a jumping. Suddenly the sensual rhythm of the code vanishes, destroyed by a dual blast from air horns, a shock similar to the sudden ringing of a phone in the wee morning hours. The chair becomes moist and my expresso solidifies. Gator has arrived. Even with this new year holding a hand with three of

a kind ace high it will be no different from last year. I get up to the sound of cracking knee joints and open the door of the shack.

There is Gator with a wide devilish grin and holding a plain brown paper bag, "Happy New Year, Dit Dah Dude, did'cha hear my new air horn? Bubba got me the mate of my other horn."

I smile politely because I did not know air horns mated, bet that is a blast. "Greetings, Gator! They sure are loud."

"It exceeds the OSHA dB level for deafening sound. But it is not loud in the cab."

"What brings you here this early on a new year."

"Brought you a sample of my latest brandy blend and want to know how the 3M mini went. Actually I want to know if AL be there."

"Thanks, Gator, I will save the bottle for when I get on the county hunters forum. Get a couple of Corona's out of the fridge."

Gator opens two bottles and sticks a lemon wedge in each bottle neck as it is done at the bowling alley.

I hear a county I need announced on the net, "Here, Gator. Read the County Line Roadrunner while I work this mobile." I work the station and turn to Gator, "The 3M mini was great, I got..."

Gator has turned white as bleached pajamas, "What is this I am reading? That Hickory county dude is not gonna write his Spotlight article no more. That be the highlight of the newsletter. Why-O-why? I need to talk to Al."

"Well Gator, he got some harassment for the last articles he published."

"What he be? A turkey or a chicken?"

"Can you give me another choice. But do not worry Harry has quit writing many times. He will be back after the Rose Bowl. Now can I continue about my trip to the 3m mini."

Gator opens a bottle of pickled ham hocks, with Cajun seasoning, and says, "Can't start a new year without ham hocks. Only thing missing are the black eye peas."

"You just can't keep quiet can you?"

Gator makes the motion of zippering his lips and hands me a ham hock. You cannot kill a ham hock messenger.

"As I was saying, I arrived at the Mini Thursday afternoon after running some Georgia and Tennessee counties. After checking in I found Al in the hospitality room and we had a cool one and talked about you."

"I knew it when my ears started burning, BOY I love that man."

"Joyce had a problem getting the hospitality room going."

"What happened, Dude?"

"She had no ice and the county hunter with the

(Continued on Page 11)

COUNTY HUNTER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

County Hunter of the Year Award Application Procedure

1. List in order why your nominee meets each of the award criteria as listed.
2. Specify how your nominee has performed over time for each of the listed criteria.
3. Copy this form for additional nominations or for a second made nomination.
4. Nominee *MUST* be a MARAC member in good standing.

To: District Director - _____ District

I hereby nominate _____ (Name and Call) as the ____ CW ____ SSB (Check one)
County Hunter of the Year for 1998 and would like to see this person announced as the winner at the convention in Post
Falls, ID. I believe that this nominee is an appropriate candidate for County Hunter of the Year because:

	Current Year	Past Years
Mobile Ops	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Net Control	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Club Support	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Other Work	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Tech Prof.	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Overall	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____

This nomination must be received by the
District Director NLT March 15, 1998.

Signature _____

Call _____

MARAC # _____

1999 South Central Mini Convention

WHEN: February 25th, 26th and 27th, 1999

WHERE: Best Western - Harlingen Inn, Expressway 83, Harlingen, TX

ROOM RATE: All rooms \$45/night plus tax. Includes complete breakfast buffet and eggs/omelets to order. Same rates if you come early or stay late. Want to stay for month? Call and ask for Diane for rates. Shuttle service to Harlingen/South Padre Island airport and other locations.

RESERVATIONS: Call 800-425-7080 and mention Ham Radio Convention Rates. Our block of rooms will be held until January 10--after that, pot luck. This is the busiest tourist season, so call early.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: Average temperatures at that time of year are 75 degrees for a high and 54 degrees for a low. South Padre Island with entertainment, beaches and deep sea or Laguna fishing is 35 minutes east. Brownsville historical sights and Zoo are 25 minutes southeast. Shopping in Mexico cities is 30 minutes south. Harlingen has everything close in and other monster malls are 30 minutes west in McAllen. Birdwatching reserves, golf courses and much more are located throughout the Lower Rio Grand Valley.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES: Nice hospitality area near the pool. Technical/Antenna sessions. Cribbage tournament(W3XE in charge) Saturday Night dinner, buffet style.

PRIZES: All prize donations will be appreciated.

CONVENTION FEES - REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION - Includes name badge, group photo and prize drawing.

SINGLE.....\$9.00 = \$ ____.

OM/YL Couple.....\$12.00 = \$ ____.

Banquet Buffet.....\$14.50 x ____ = \$ ____.

TOTAL \$ ____.

NAME _____ CALL _____ USACA# _____

NAME _____ CALL _____ USACA# _____

fomula had not shown up yet."

Gator walks to the fridge shaking his head. He opens two more Corona's and sarcastically inserts a lemon wedge in each bottle neck.

I ignore Gator and rattle on about the mini. This was the eighteenth successful year of the 3M mini and there were 182 in attendance and 172 at the banquet. On Friday a group of hungry county hunters went to Mrs. Bobo's restaurant for lunch. It was great food and as usual I ate too much. Oh, I forgot, when I checked into the motel, I got a basket of fruit and don't you say a word.

Gator smiles and inserts a fresh chew opposite the ham hock.

Saturday we had some meetings. The first meeting is a discussion of proposed revisions to the by-laws. Next Roger, W2NWL, presented some MARAC awards. Following the award's presentation was the CW meeting.

"You finally got to something interesting, I bet Al was the meeting President, you know he and Clinton be from Arkansas?"

I wash a ham hock down with a long swig and continue. "No and yes Gator, but Al was there to answer questions if someone should ask one. The meeting coordinator was Andy, W3XE. The agenda involved several items for discussion. The first item is a request to reply to a mobile that is QNI (ready to run on net) at the mobile's CW speed. The next item discussed is that someone on the net please relay (QSP) when the net is QNF (open net). Andy reported that there had not been any reported problems with phonetics (Papa Hotel Oscar November Echo Tango India Charlie Sierra) on the CW net. The next item discussed is when moving off net frequency (QSY) the station should go down to avoid the FISTS net on twenty meters or the QRP net on forty meters."

Gator hands me a ham hock, "That be called the Monica maneuver."

I ignore Gator and continue. "The meeting was quick and to the point. Following the CW meeting was the antenna forum with Barry who went on and on and on. Gator, there was even talk about renaming North Carlina as a DX country."

We both have a big laugh while washing down a ham hock. Please no one try this without the required training. Gator gets two more cool ones. Gator can pop the cap and insert a lemon wedge using one hand, a true artist.

Gator hands me a Corona and a ham hock and asks, "How be the weather, did you freeze your a.., I mean butt off again?"

"Gator the weather was great. It was pleasant the whole time. Next year it will be nice again, the mini will be in late October."

"Did you play Cabbage?"

"No, Mitch would not let me play because someone told him I knew how to count."

We have a big laugh while washing down another ham hock.

My mind wanders and I wonder what the gas content of a ham hock is, but I snap back and continue, "Saturday night was the banquet. The food was great and everyone received a gift."

"You too Dude?"

"Yes, me too."

"Where they get the gifts?"

"The prizes are donated by the county hunters attending the mini."

"What did you donate?"

"After the banquet we went to the hospitality room to bid each other farewell until the MARAC convention in Post Falls, Idaho."

"Is that in the U S of America?"

"GATOR!"

"Only kidding Dude, I looked it up on the map and there be a State by that appellation. What be the by-laws?"

Barely heard above the CW net and the Corona's is the sound of bells, BONG, BOING, BONG, it is Gator's paging system.

"Darn, have customers. Gotta keep commerce moving. see you later alligator."

Gator is out the door before the last G from BONG is attenuated. Gator shouts, "ID...A... HO, now that would be an interesting project, Ha Ha Ha."

I shake my head, Gator had one ham hock to many. I go back inside the shack and read one of Gene's, W1TEE, mobile tales. This trip Gene was in his Duster working some counties in Washington state and had just crossed into Oregon at Astoria going south on 101. A car load of young girls passed, one of the girls hanging out the back flashed W1TEE closing her fist for a dash and opening her fist for a dit, Then the driver sent Gene's call W1TEE using the turning lights. This activity surprised Gene so he sent HI using the horn. In this State Gene most likely would have been mooned. I should read the proposed MARAC by-laws, but it is nap time. Happy New Year. Were you finished with the old one????

NEEDS

WB4NWG, Roland, for USA-CA

KY Johnson Pendleton Spencer OH Harrison
Ottawa Williams OR Grant Wheeler

☎ 804-454-4322

N9CHU, Ace, Last counties needed for *Fifth Time* and working them all with USA-CA holders

CA Sierra (USA-CA holder) CO Otero (Anyone)
IA Madison (Anyone) LA East-Carroll (USA-CA holder) MI Hillsdale (Anyone) MT Cascade (USA-CA holder) Lake (USA-CA holder) OH Defiance (Anyone and USA-CA holder-will award both a last) OK Kay (Anyone) SC Saluda (Anyone) TN

Franklin (USA-CA holder) **VT** Franklin (Anyone)
I will prepare the paper work on any last counties received. ☎ 334-961-2504

K5VYT, Dick, for *Fourth Time*

AR Ashley Bradley **CO** Crowley Otero Teller
ID Owyhee **KS** Lincoln Scott Stevens **KY** Green
MN Renville **MO** Livingston Ozark Shannon **OR**
Clatsop Wheeler **SD** Codington Deuel Faulk Grant
Hamlin Roberts **WA** Kitsap

☎ 303-273-4677 days, 303-431-6354 evenings,
weekends ☐ amcent@central.com. Last county
awards guaranteed.

N1API, Al, for *Second Time*

KS Greenwood Haskell **NC** Granville

☐ n1api@home.com

KG0BB for USA-CA

OK Cotton Kiowa **NE** Chase Colfax Dodge
Fillmore Hayes Perkins Saline **SD** Clay Harding
McPherson Sully Todd Turner **TN** Chester Plus
one in **KS**.

☐ kg0bb@juno.com

AI5P IN EUROPE, 1998

by Rick, AI5P

Travelling in Europe from 20 Oct to 26 Nov, I had the opportunity to meet a number of amateurs including several county hunters. Countries visited included Switzerland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Belgium and England.

The county hunters I had the pleasure to meet were Rudi, HB9RG; Vrata, OK1KT; Vasek, OK1VD; and Zdenek, OK1ACF. Many of you, including myself, have met Rudi during his visits to the United States and he is quite active on the SSB net. Once you have seen his hilltop location and antennas near Zurich, you will understand why he is so often heard with a big signal!

It was a real pleasure to visit the Czech Republic for the first time and see the beautiful city of Prague. East of Prague (about 1 1/2 hours on the bus) is the city of Hradec Kravlove. OK1KT and OK1ACF live here and OK1VD nearby. It was quite a thrill for me to meet these amateurs for I had talked to them all over the years both on the county hunting frequencies and DXing. Vrata and Vasek are very active both on the SSB and CW county hunting frequencies while Zdenek only operates on the cw frequency. We had quite a time talking about county hunting and DXing. Both Vrata and Vasek participated in the OK DX Foundation DXpedition to the South Pacific in Early 1998.

I was able to operate using the following calls:

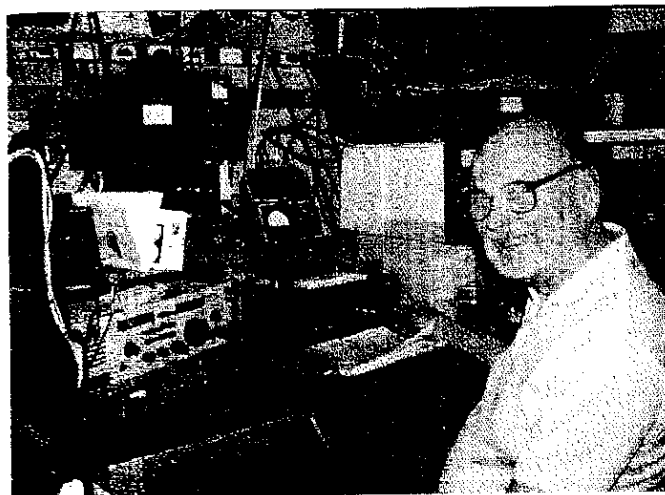
HB9/ON8DX, OK8PDX, OK/ON8DX, OM9AIP, OM/ON8DX, HA/AI5P, HA/ON8DX, DL/ON8DX, ON8DX, and M/AI5P.

A total of 781 contacts were made with 59% on SSB and 41% on CW. County hunter callsigns in the log included: VE3XN, K8OOK, KJ5C, W9GBH, WA4IMC, W1TEE, and OH3JF.

One of the radio highlights of the trip was seeing the monster antenna at the club station OM3RMM in Samorin, Slovakia. How about a rotatable Quad at 50 meters having 2 elements on 80, 4 on 40/30, 5 on 20/17/15, and 7 on 12/10 meters. Wow!

Having lived in Europe for a number of years it was fun to visit old friends and make new ones. Budapest and Prague were the tourist highlights along with the newly renovated Villa Borghese in Rome.

I want to thank the county hunters I visited and their families for the wonderful hospitality and great memories!



RUDY, HB9RG



VASEK, OK1VD



ZDENEK, OK1ACP



VRATA, OK1KT

(Continued from Page 1)

and eliminate all the items that are currently published in the Annual Report that do not pertain to the fiscal condition of the club. Further discussion will be conducted at future meetings.

Treasurer Roy Glasscock reports that an envelope containing checks from Awards Chairman Roger Purdy, stamped for DEPOSIT ONLY to the MARAC account at the Mercantile Bank in St. Louis, Missouri, have never made it to the bank in St. Louis from the Whiting NJ Post Office for deposited in the club account. The members who have written those checks are being contacted to notify the club if their check comes back cashed. Treasurer Roy also in-

formed those present that about half of the original checks have been replaced by the affected members at this time. Secretary Mike Leahy said it would be safer if Roger sends any future checks to either the Secretary or the Treasurer for deposits. It is unclear if the checks ever reached the bank or not. Further developments on this incident will be placed in the future MARAC Meeting minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Further discussion concerning the expense records submitted by MARAC members was opened. Secretary Mike Leahy informed those present that, after an audit of the expense records since July 1998, several items that were submitted and paid by members did not meet the criteria for good business practice. Requests for payment of expenses, such as telephone and postage bills, were submitted without an explanation attached as to the nature of the expense (e.g., numerous telephone calls made to the same number during a month, several large amounts of postage during the same month). Secretary Mike then submitted examples of Expense Report Sheets that could be used by MARAC members to document their expenses. After a brief discussion, those members present agreed to the proposal and Secretary Mike will draft up a letter explaining the procedure on using the expense reports and mail it to all of the Board Members.

President Jim Glasscock informed those present that it appears the Constitution and By-Laws Committee is about to wrap up the updating of the current Constitution and By-Laws and will hopefully have something to present to the membership around the first of the year.

President Jim Glasscock received information from Don Chamberlain, W9DC, who has been looking into the possibility of having an information booth at the Dayton Hamvention. Because MARAC is a not for profit organization, the inside booth space and three badges are free. The only problem that needs to be resolved is the personnel to man the booth during the Hamvention. A list of all those MARAC members who wish to participate in the manning of the booth and other duties associated with this project should submit their name, either by E-Mail or snail mail, to Secretary Mike Leahy (see address info on the back page of the Road Runner) before the January 1999 Meeting (January 9th) so the club knows whether to pursue this project or not. Further discussion will take place at future meetings and with Don, W9DC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05AM. The next MARAC Monthly Meeting will be conducted on January 9, 1999 at the Kountry Café located in Pevely, MO.

Club Officers

President: James A. "Jim" Glasscock, W0FF, 3416 Manhattan Ave, Saint Louis, MO, 63143-3523 ☎ 314-647-9458 ✉ jimfoxfox@aol.com

Vice-President: Edward N. "Ed" Brown, W0WYJ, 4325 Bellewood Drive, Saint Louis, MO 63125-4204 ☎ 314-487-3803 ✉ w0wyj@aol.com

Secretary: John M. "Mike" Leahy, N0DIA, 180 South Lafayette, Florissant, MO, 63031-6803 ☎ 314-921-2875 ✉ n0dia@juno.com

Treasurer: Roy V. "Silver" Glasscock, KC0JG, 841 Longhi Rd., Collinsville, IL, 62234-6931 ☎ 618-667-4178 ✉ kc0jg@dlrweb.com

Headquarters Directors

Robert R. "Bob" Roth, W0DFK, 455 Elm, Sainte Genevieve, MO, 63670-1550

☎ 573-883-3746 ✉ w0dfk@idd.net

Gerald R. "Jerry" Grasso, WW0G, Rte 1, Box 594, Marble Hill, MO, 63764-9701

☎ 573-866-2622 ✉ ww0g@bigfoot.com

Francis G. "Frank" Tissot, KE0AY, 2003 Greenheath Dr., Florissant, MO, 63033-1214 ☎ 314-839-2711 ✉ ke0ay@juno.com

District Directors

Great Lakes: George Roberts, KB3GN, 10 Spring Blossom Ln., Gerrardstown, WV 25420-9635 ☎ 304-229-5335 ✉ kb3gn@intrepid.net

North Central: Joe Lindley, WB0CQO, 320 E. 5th St., Murray, IA 50174-9422 ☎ 515-447-2144 ✉ cqojoe@pionet.net

Northeast: John Butler, WB2NFB, PO Box 941, Johnstown, NY 12095-0941

☎ 518-762-1283

Pacific: Ken Williams, W7LQT, N.1035 Highland Ct., Post Falls, ID, 83854-8807

☎ 208-773-6767 ✉ kenw7lqt@tor.com

South Central: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, Rt. 8 Box 748A, Harlingen, TX 78552-9806 ☎ 956-423-8660 ✉ joycenul@aol.com

Southeast: Gene Tyree, N4ANV, 5222 Sumac Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28304-5855 ☎ 910-425-8003 ✉ n4anv@aol.com

Other Members of the Board

Awards Chairman: Roger A. Purdy, W2NWL, P.O.Box 270, Whiting, NJ

08759-0270 ☎ 732-350-5758 ✉ w2nwl@injersey.com

Immediate Past President: Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, R.R.1, Box 287, Denison, TX 75020-3021 ☎ 903-463-3231 ✉

wd5jgs@texoma.net **Newsletter Editor:** Clifford A. Taylor, WB4FBS, 22707 Red Mountain Dr., Elmendorf, TX 78112-6034 ☎ 210-621-2741 ✉ wb4fbs@aol.com

Awards Committee

Great Lakes: Paula Batema, N8EMV, 1567 86th St., Fennville, MI 49408-9741 ☎ 616-227-3794 ✉ stebat@cybersol.com

North Central: Les Springmire, W9GPC, 9554 E. Fowler Rd. Rochelle, IL 61068-9739 ☎ 815-562-2511 ✉

lesw9gpc@rochelle.net

Northeast & DX: Barry Dutcher, N1IA, 6 Prospect St., Maynard, MA 01754-1315 ☎ 508-897-9835 ✉

73622.1167@compuserve.com or n1ia@compuserve.com

Pacific: (See **Sunshine Coordinator**)

South Central: (See **District Director, South Central**)

Southeast: Jim Thomas, KB4XK, 6091 Blanch Rd., Blanch, NC 27212-0670 ☎ 910-234-8938

At-Large Member: (See **President**)

Sunshine Coordinator: Avon Anderson, WB7WBZ, N. 1035 Highland Ct., Post Falls, ID 83854-8807

☎ 208-773-6767 ✉ avonwb7wbz@hotmail.com

Information Coordinator: (See **Secretary**)

* **Publisher RoadRunner** * **Custodian Club Call (WB0DPD)**

* Bob Dyson, K0AYO, 8943 Overhill Cr., Desoto, KS 66018-9173 ☎ 913-583-3212 ✉ robert.dyson@worldnet.att.net



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