

MARAC NEWSLETTER

Number 9

MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB INC

19 Feb 1971

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MARAC MEETING

A meeting by the Board of Directors was held February 6, 1971. at 7:30 PM at the QTH of WAØSHE. Meeting was called to order by the President, WAØWOB. Board members present: WAØWOB, WØAYL, WØYLN, WØSJE and WAØSHE. The president recommended amending the By-laws to change the annual meeting date from April to July. The proposed amendent is detailed in the minutes of the general meeting.

The board selected a nominating committee of six members. WAØKQQ as Chairman, W4HA, WØYLN, WA3IXL, WAØTQD and WA7IKD.

The sponsorship of future ICHN conventions by MARAC was discussed in depth. Since this is a major policy decision for both groups it was the consensus that full discussion be promoted in both ICHN and MARAC. If it is determined that MARAC should sponsor the annual meeting, it will be necessary to carefully draw guidelines for both groups. The matter of regional clubs or chapters was discussed. There are many good reasons for regional groups but since the growth of the club to its present size was not anticipated on formation, there are no provisions in the by-laws for such groups. It was decided to leave this subject for later consideration since the need for urgent action will be somewhat dependent on the matter of sponsorship of annual county hunter meetings. It may be possible to deal with the combined subjects of convention sponsorship and regional groups at our annual meeting.

All membership applications to date were approved.

Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The February General meeting of MARAC was held at 9:25 PM at the qth of WAØSHE. Members present were WAØWOB, WAØSLG, WAØZCQ, KØAYO, WØAYL, KØDCR, WØYLN, WØSJE, WAØSHE. Minutes of January meeting approved as appeared in Newsletter Nr. 8. Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$262.76. A net balance on hand, \$110.00 after payment of awards, Certificates and newsletter expenses. It was noted that the dues for 1971 (\$3.00 for all, Regular and Charter members) are due on or before April 1st, 1971, the condition of the Treasury should improve. There is a great deal of discussion of MARAC awards on the net and as the applications for the awards come in, they will offset the cost of developing new awards. WØSJE requested the awards list be updated and changed as necessary and he also read the proposed requirements for the Last County Award.

KØAYO commented on the Club Station. The call for the Club Station is WBØDPD. Bob read his proposals for operating the club station and these were approved. A contact with the club station will count 5 points toward awards.

WØYLN reported on the newsletter. He asked provisions be made whereby SWL's could receive the newsletter. In our last N/L we reported option 3 had the most votes regarding distribution of the N/L. When we study the details of membership requirements, we discovered we had eliminated Associate and SWL members from receiving the N/L. This was not our intention and in our February meeting we unanimously approved a change in policy permitting SWLs and Associate members to receive the N/L for a subscription price of \$3.00 per year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM. Next meeting will be March 6th at the qth of WØAYL.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

It is the recommendation of the Board of Directors that the following amendment be made to the By-Laws of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.

1. Cancel Section 2. Article 1 - Meetings and substitute therefor the following:
2. The regular meeting of the Club in July shall be known as the Annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers and new directors and any other business that shall arise.

The proposed amendment will be further discussed and presented for vote at the next regular meeting in March, 1971.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every month we ask for comments for our guidance, in one form or another. Operating as a group in Kansas City we need these communications to keep us in touch with the general membership of MARAC. As a result of a couple of notes and comments on the air I received a letter from Ray, K5RPC which is very much appreciated. We leave this newsletter open to any and all comments because it is the line of communication within our club. I am going to answer some of Ray's comments as an open letter since the questions raised are all valid; and if they are on his mind, probably others would be interested in the same material.

Rays comments are in quotes.

"Many were led to believe that MARAC would be an awards club for mobileers-but most of the awards are slanted to the non-mobilers..."

Yes, MARAC is an awards club for mobilers... but not exclusively. The reason is economics. There is a substantial expense in creating a award from original artwork and printing it in 2 or 3 colors. There are not enough mobile operators to recover the cost. By making combination awards first, where both mobiles and fixed stations are involved, we hope to develop income to offset the losses sustained in the mobile awards. We indicated in N/L # 4 that the time had come to work on mobile only awards.. when we had a firm idea of our budget. The MOBILE/DX award is finished and the first two awarded... both went all the way and won the trophy as well, with over 100 DX contacts from a mobile station (WA3HGV is # 1). We are now started on the "last count," award, and W0SJE has drafts of proposed requirements for this award.

"When a rare (DX) works the mobiler- the net goes to h///; all the fixed stations want the DX and all the mobiles are cut out..."

I must agree with Ray... we have all heard it. I don't know how MARAC can help here. We desperately need more net control stations. I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT SOME OF THE MOBILES ARE SO UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS, THAT THEY ARE NOT QSLing UNLESS THERE IS A NET CONTROL STATION...might not be a bad idea. That is an ICHN problem.. maybe we can help in some way..perhaps the N/C guidelines in the last N/L may encourage some to jump in and help. If anyone can come up with suggestions- as to how MARAC can help please speak up.

"Other grips are the constant 3x3 to the same station".

I must admit I'm guilty of automatic 3x3 to weak stations...from habit I guess. I fully agree with Ray here... people should improve their gear and strive for better signals. Next time I'm mobile I'll try and break the habit.

"Next the convention- Yes its big and I sincerely believe it will be a tremendous success. Everyone will have a good time and there will never be another one."

This really concerns us and we are trying to organize working committees for the convention which will give it continuity in the future. Perhaps MARAC could assume leadership here and sponsor the conventions. This would greatly ease the burden of work and finances involved by spreading it over the whole club. We will offer our services but it will be up to the convention to decide which route to take.

"Another thing I want to discuss- the paper for Net Controls. The first page of the newsletter states the club is not involved in the operation of the net - However the last page on the newsletter has rules for NCS.....we can't set rules for NCS we don't have...."

The guidelines for NCS was intended to help stations on the net START taking net control. Also, we would like a group to work the guidelines over thoroughly before and at the ICHN KC71 meeting and perhaps we could adopt them at the meeting and print them at the expense of the convention for everyone's use.

FROM THE EDITOR

With mobile trips, jury duty, my own work and meetings interfering this Newsletter will be late getting to press and in the mail, but better late than never I hope. I am receiving some information for the Newsletter and I do thank those that have taken time to do so. It really helps and we must have it to make the Newsletter what it should be. I feel there is much more to be had though if we can get it pried loose or dug out of someones files. This month we have an item of particular interest to mobileers (by WAØSKQ), especially those that use a tape recorder for logging purposes. I have heard rumors of a simple, easy noise clippers but I can't print rumors so if anyone has the dope send it along please. During my mobiling this past month this happened to me and I would like to pass it along to others and possibly eliminate some confusion. After a QRZ for a county line, I gave a report to a station that was not a good report. At the time the station couldn't copy me so I continued on and that station called again and he was very strong, so I gave him a report accordingly. Someone (he never identified) made the comment "how can you give him a low report and then a good report?" I didn't take the time to explain to him but with a little thought I think he could have figured it out for himself. Apparently this station had never done much mobile work. More than likely it was because of erratic band conditions but many things could have caused it. A fixed station may have forgotten to turn his antenna or the mobile may change directions if he is moving and all mobileers know and tell you-this is mighty important when conditions are marginal. If you are trying to work a mobile and are having trouble, don't give up until you are sure you are not able to work him. As far as I am concerned, it is NO ONE'S business what report I give to another station except his and mine. There are two other things I have trouble with when I am mobile, one being the station that can't get his transmitter on frequency. Please take the time to check your transmitter before you transmit whether it be to check in or to call a mobile. The other thing happens mostly on 75 meters and is very frustrating to me as a mobileer. I hear practically all stations that call me but they do not hear me mostly because they are not listening. I have given a station a report as many as 5 times only to have that station be calling me again when I let up on the mike button so you can imagine what the mobileer feels like. I am still receiving dues for membership etc. that should go to other places so again I will say- please send whatever you have to the proper places as indicated below.

Newsletter information WØYLN

Official Club business (including membership dues) WAØSHE

Award applications and award suggestions/comments WØSJE

Award, net and address information WA4BMC

The activities of the club are largely funded by membership dues and we hope all members will take notice that 1971 dues should be in before April 1971. Charter and regular \$3.00. Associate and SWL no dues but Newsletter \$3.00 per year.

MARAC CLUB STATION WBØDPD

You have heard the call on the air and several of you have worked "it", "it" being the call of our Club Station. The operation of the club station will be co-ordinated by KØAYO as trustee. At the MARAC meeting of 2/6/71 several rules and guidelines were discussed and finally approved. Briefly, they are:

- 1) At the present time, only Club officers will use the Club station call as portable or mobile. (Maximum of one week).
- 2) Club station will work for USA CA and MARAC awards.
- 3) Except for KL7/KH6- only mobile contacts will be counted for county credit.
- 4) MARAC members working club station should send SASE for QSL.

- 5) Station trustee will maintain and handle all QSL's and records.
- 6) Trustee will provide a monthly expense sheet to the treasurer.
- 7) Trustee will provide Newsletter monthly status of counties worked and confirmed by members.

Club station QSL's are being prepared and should be available from printer within the next 30 days, hopefully! One last item, for purpose of those stations working for Associate membership, the Club station will count for 5 points.

THE MEMBERS SPEAK

YS2CEN- Carmen writes that she is going to attend the ICHN Convention and is looking forward to it. She has duplicated MARAC Award lists and is sending them to DX stations so we mobileers in the US may have a chance at the DX for awards purposes.

W2GT- Ed reports that K8IQB is trying to re-establish a 40 meter County Hunter net on about 7285 daily starting about 12-1300Z.

K2PFC- Starting 9 April and ending Apr 18 Duane will be trying to help those that need last counties between his home QTH, west to Detroit, south to Georgia and back home.

K5YWX/HS3AEN- Ben writes that he is on the air and operating from HS3 land and tries to check in and work a few counties that he still needs. He needs only 73 more now. Anyone working him and needing a card QSL via his Colorado address.

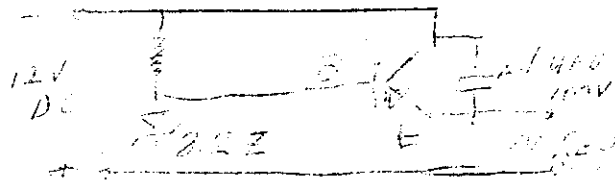
WA9YXA- Alex says he has cards for his portable KH6 qso's and anyone needing one send sase.

W6JHV- John has the following for sale: Swan Cygnet 260, 300.00, Hustler 15 meter resonator 5.00, Hustler 80 meter KW resonator, 17.50. Also Drake R4A and T4X with power supply. Write for info on prices.

WA0SBR-Ed needs the following to wrap 3079 up: Florida, Okeechobe, Ga. Dawson, Lincoln, Pike, Iowa Louisa Worth, Minn. Redwood, Kans. Pratt, Seward, Stevens, Wallace, Ky. Campbell, Owen, Miss. Attala, Leake, N. Mex. Roosevelt, N. Dak. Eddy, Tex. Gray, Swisher, Wyo. Lincoln.

WA0SHE- Our membership is open to all licensed radio operators. We do have some members that can be worked on every band. We have one novice, WN0BJI. Those who might wish to work Bill for his MARAC number, look for him in the novice bands or write to him for a sked. Those who have 6 meter equipment might look for WA0SLG. Al is very much interested in MARAC and has spent many hours listening to the County Hunters. He follows all of the local group whenever they are mobile. He has gone mobiling with WA0SHE and kept logs for her on these trips. Since Al is going on 75 years young, he has had trouble with his code and holds a technicians license. When the skip is right, you will find Al on 6 meters. He has worked 20 States to date. If you are interested in trying for this contact, drop Al a note and he will be happy to set a frequency and time and give a big try.

WA0SKQ- Many mobile operators use tape recorders to keep their logs. Here is a power supply I use for ming that gives the same voltage as batteries under load and works FB. I have made several and they all have worked well. The transistor is not critical and most any power transistor will work if it is capable of .6 amp or better. It also works fine for 9V transistor radios etc.



W0AYL- Here is Ellas list of needed counties: Idaho, Clearwater, Lemhi, Iowa, Clay, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocohontas, Minn. Faribault, Morrison, Rosear, Miss. Kemper, Lowndes Tenn. Johnson, Tex. Donley, ~~Grimes~~, Gray, Marion, Newton, Roberts, Wood, Mills, Wash. Kitsap, Sonomish, Wis. Burnett. Her Phone nr. is 913-422-5331, call collect.