



MARAC



THE MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB, INC.

Number 21

MINUTES

February 18, 1972

The regular meeting of MARAC was held at the QTH of WA0ZCQ on 5 Feb. Members present were WA0WOB, WA0ZCQ, WA0YJL, W0SJE, W0YLN and W0AYL. Called to order at 1930 by WA0WOB. The minutes of the January meeting were accepted as presented in the newsletter. The Treasurer, W0AYL reported a balance of \$327.90 as of 1 Feb. 1972. WA0WOB read formal notice of tax exempt status from Internal Revenue Service for MARAC under I. R. code 501 (C) (7). W0SJE reported that the mobile county award is ready for issue now and applications are being received. Discussion was held on the possibility of standard forms for award applications being made available by MARAC for certain awards. W0SJE to draft form for printing. Discussion was held on what the club could do to assist mobile operators. It was noted that mobile noise suppression is a popular subject and many questions have come up about it. The possibility of the club making noise suppression kits available was discussed and tabled. Instead, information will be published in the newsletter as to where noise suppression equipment may be purchased. The need for someone to write a monthly article on this subject was discussed and it was decided to ask for volunteers from the membership. The SSB County Hunters contest was the final subject. Rules, forms and possible problems discussed. Some slight changes in scoring were made and will appear in this newsletter. Meeting adjourned at 2200. Next meeting to be at the QTH of WA0SHE.

*****SSB COUNTY HUNTER'S CONTEST*****

In this newsletter you will find the rules for the SSB County Hunter's contest. Some slight changes have been made in scoring. Summary and scoring sheets are available from WA0ZCQ, Olin Munger 6004 N. W. 68 Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri 64151. Send $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inch SASE. These sheets must be used for all entries. Note: These sheets will be mailed free to DX stations upon request. For additional sheets, they may be copied or you may obtain more from WA0ZCQ for another SASE. If you do copy them or make your own, be sure they have the same number of entries per side as the original sheets. Scoring information and summary sheets will be included. Remember- no credit for contacts on established net frequencies, so it might be wise for the mobileers to set up their fixed stations and the fixed stations to get some mobiles lined up. All bands will be utilized. If you plan a trip, send the trip schedule to W0YLN for publication in the March newsletter. The deadline for the newsletter is 6 March. DX stations please note: Any publicity you may give in your areas will be of great value, the more participants, the better it will be.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

MARAC is a club for mobilers and mobilers make the county hunting scene keep on the move....Anything we can do to help the mobiler get out a better signal, the easier he is to copy and the more enjoyment he gets from operating mobile. This newsletter can well be a place to exchange info on operating mobile. There is little pleasure in trying to copy a 3 x 3 signal in an S9 noise level. Do you spend \$700.00 for a rig with a blanker or \$10.00 to \$20.00 and half a day and eliminate the noise at the source? How do you know when the RF is going out or coming back? Is there a way to



MARAC information mail-out slips available from
 Editor- W0YLN 120 Spring Garden, Leavenworth,
 Kansas 66048. Send legal size SASE.



have a low SWR at two frequencies 200KHZ apart? Do two hustlers work better than one? Which is the most efficient antenna? Lets start an exchange of information along these lines in this newsletter! Would someone like to start the ball rolling by giving us a report on their experiences? Anyone want to volunteer to help put this together? With the County Hunters contest coming up in April there will be a real test of mobile operating proficiency when the mobile tries to compete with the KW fixed stations away from net frequencies. Let's make it work! Let's learn from this years contest to make a better one next year!

THE MEMBERS SPEAK

WA3APO/5 I'd like to thank everyone who has helped in county hunting. I would appreciate any help for the following counties still needed. Idaho, Payette, Indiana, Lawrence, Ohio, Orange, Scott, Switzerland, Minn., Cottonwood, Wadena, Miss., Union, N. Dak., Pemfina, S. Dak., Douglas, W. Vir., Fayette, Lincoln, Nicholas. I'm hoping to finish these before Uncle Sam's Air Force sends me back overseas again. '73's Bob.

WØYLN Some big plans are being made here for participation in the coming County contest. We are shooting for the top score, so let this be a warning to all mobile participants, you better be well prepared if you expect to beat us. You will have to get up early and stay late. We include those mobilers in Georgia where the counties are small and those in Texas where the roads are straight and fast. We are looking for vounteers for fixed stations to work with us. We need some for all bands. Drop me a line if you are interested. A 48 hour county trip will be in the next newsletter. Those needing counties in western Kansas, eastern and northern Oklahoma and Texas panhandle drop us a line, maybe we will hit one you need.

W7BBX/4 - CQ WØRMG DE W7BBX/4- I just read your note in the December MARAC newsletter with great interest and concern. All us county hunters, fixed and mobile, are greatly indebted to the many mobileers who donate their time and hard cash (yes, gas does cost money!) to the cause of county hunting. I'm indebted to you for 28 new counties in Iowa alone. But, as you say, there are many weaknesses in both the nature of the two major county hunting nets and some (but by no means the well-meaning majority) of the net members. Your frustrations of waiting on county lines for an inordinate time are common to all of us who have ever taken to the road; however, rather than chucking the whole mess in desperation, I prefer to think (hope) that there must be a way to improve the net operation, not only for the mobile operator, but for all net members as well. But to improve and strengthen the operation it will take a concerted effort from all members, both fixed and mobile. Let's look at the 20m net. I've logged some 5000 miles so far in about 4 months of mobiling and feel that, while still a "beginner" compared to yourself and many others, I have a few suggestions which should be considered in order to sustain the momentum of the ICHN and, at the same time, make the net attractive for newcomers to the county-hunting game. The first area is the Net Control station. He is the key to the success or failure of the net. The very nature of the 20m net (guided, but not necessarily "directed") is unfortunately a by-product of the areas covered by the frequency band. With stations from the entire US and many foreign countries as regular net members, there are bound to be many "dead" or weak spots in the coverage, with the result that many times the Net Control station is not even aware that a mobile is trying to check in, unless relayed to him. My specific recommendation for this problem is that there never be only one person trying to run the whole show-- it just can't be done. Every east coast NCS has to frequently ask for "somebody" to put out a call from the mid-west, and vice-versa. In order for this particular net to operate successfully, there must be a Net Control station and DESIGNATED alternate Net Control station in different areas of the US. The NCS and Alt NCS must consider that they both have the responsibility for running the net effectively and should alternate regularly, especially when calling for mobile check-ins. Both must maintain "relay lists" for the mobiles being run, if they both hear the mobile.

This method of controlling the net is effective, positive and depends only on the ability of the two individuals and not so much on transmitter power, beam size, or location for the NCS. I have tried this method of controlling the net with a Texas Alt NCS and, although I was running only a barefoot SB-102 and a dipole, got many compliments from both fixed and mobile operators on quick response to new-county checkins. An additional frustration that many mobileers have is that of a disappearing NCS (QRX, QRT, or whatever). Personally, I refuse to put out counties without a NCS. But with two cooperating NCS's, this problem dissolves on its own. And, incidentally, someone else is much more likely to volunteer to pick up NCS or Alt NCS if he knows he has help. The second major area where improvement is sometimes necessary is to ensure that NCS's are confident, decisive, accurate and sharp operators. Now, I'm sure you know that all us county hunters are well-meaning friends and don't want to step on anyone's toes, but everyone has his own particular style of operating, and a rag-chewer or person who is not decisive cannot direct any net the way it must be done. The time-limit rule for NCS's serves to check this somewhat, but each member of the net knows his own tendencies and abilities and should consider the welfare of the entire net when volunteering to assume NCS or Alt NCS. Those instances when suddenly 2 three-county lines and 4 two-county lines show up at the same time really try the ability of even a sharp NCS. Those stations volunteering to move lines up or down should be given the courtesy of a quick exchange with others needed and then move immediately. Certainly patience and a little forbearance is required by all members, especially the single county mobileer if he is left hanging for a few minutes. However, there is simply no excuse for running anyone, county line or not, for such a long period of time that the other mobiles on the run are neglected. ALL NCS's need a little foresight to avoid this. The "phone 3x3" report MUST be eliminated. Here, the personal integrity of both operators is involved. Perhaps the relay (Okay, Sam, you got his report, now give him numbers only...roger contact) should be eliminated in all but those instances where it would clean up a State. Much, much net time would be saved. The question of whether or not to handle comments or queries on-frequency again is a matter of judgement for the NCS and Alt NCS, and depends on net activity at the time. Generally, however, and especially on weekends when the net membership is heavy, these should be taken care of off-frequency. Now, the 75m net. It's a mess, and so much so, that I have never even attempted to enter it except when on a special run. The sense of cooperation found on the 20m net is, as far as I can see, completely absent and sounds like just a bunch of guys using their kilowatts indiscriminately to get what they want at the time without regard to overall net welfare. Here the main difference is that the 75m net is oriented toward the fixed station rather than the mobile, and probably with some justification, since you really do need a KW to compete on 75. I don't have a linear and, personally, I don't particularly enjoy listening to others abuse net procedures by improper or unnecessary requests to be put on a list. So I generally steer clear of the net. Until the above points are made to all those members of both the ICHN and other nets, probably little can be done to bring about any major changes for the better. However, if ALL mobile operators INSISTED on proper procedures, effective control and STRICT NET DISCIPLINE, the 20m net would provide all members much more satisfaction and at the same time make the life of the mobileer as worthwhile and rewarding as it should be. The MARAC N/L reaches many of those mobileers who mainly frequent the 20m net, but much more publicity for the above points is necessary to all county hunters. Well, I'm down off my soap box now, Joe. Since I've checked into the 75m net only once, perhaps you could give me a few groups on possible improvements there. Anyway, I sure do hope you haven't deep-sixed the mobile rig 'cause I'd like to hear you on again. Perhaps I can help you out on a few counties when I get back on the road. Be looking for you on 20! Anyone needing counties in De., Md, Va, Nc, W Va and Pa. drop me a line and I'll be making my first trip in early April. Vy 73's es good hunting! Howie

K1ZSI It seems as though every newsletter published carries an article pertaining to how the net control station should function. (Almost to the degree of being a mechanical machine programmed to function like a computer that has been set up by a professional.) It also seems that the comments are mostly (not all) made from people that are never heard as net control stations. I for one, become irritated to read this type of article only because the station trying to run the net is a county hunter himself and just trying to keep the net operational in many cases, and work some new counties like every one else. I do admit that there are some stations on as net control that are more proficient than others, but I also think that we should take a moment to thank all of those that have been a net control in the past and hope for many more in the future. I am very grateful for being able to work as many as 2500 counties on the 20 meter net (all mobile), for it would have been impossible without a net control station. Thanks "Net Controls" for all the help. P. S. Thanks to the mobile stations also for as many counties. Ed- R-178
K9DCJ A lot of the county hunters have said they were going to work me in all Wisconsin counties so I've drawn up a certificate and have it ready for issue. There will be no charge, no GCR, just a list of the counties and the date worked. Basic will be 50 counties, seals for 61 and all 72. SASE would help for seals. QSL's are not required. 73's Arnie

W6CCM Dave writes that the Bureau is working out fairly well, but he still gets complaints about 1st contact QSL cards, in fact he has a note from one mobiler who flatly states he will not return any cards which are not accompanied by personal QSL cards. Listed below are his "Lost list" (stations not listed, no addresses for them, possibly wrong calls etc.) Drop him a line if you think you can help him on any of these:

K7SLX, John Peterson last known at General Delivery, Vernal Utah 84021, WA5ZWO, Ken Gaskin last known at 4710 Jason St. Dallas Texas 75206. WA9WMJ, M. E. Miller last known 3720 Stellhorn Fort Wayne, Ind. 46805. K5HDZ, Ralph King Last at 10734 Overbrook Houston, Texas 77042. WA5BUG last at PO box 994 La Porte, Texas 77571. WA4WDG worked by K0GRQ, WB4JKB worked by K3ORP, K2GPS worked by WA0VBF (might be TPS), K3FMG worked by WA7GOO, K3YNP worked by WB6CPE, WA3QVN worked by WA1CXE, K4YMG worked by K6BEP, K4FFJ worked by WB2SJK, K4BEV worked by K7CUY (could be BEU), WA4IRJ worked by WA0JCE, WB2WAE worked by K1ZSI. It was noted in recent correspondence that this bureau is now associated with the INTERNATIONAL MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION.

ICHN 72 CLIFF CORNE MEMORIAL

Mailing for convention were mailed Feb. 5, 72. All county hunter should have received them by the time the newsletter reaches them. Over 600 listings and more every day, as new calls are entered in the address file. There has been 7 reservations, as of this writing, confirmed. As follows:

1. W0GV
2. K4ZA
3. WA0WOB
4. W80A
5. W6LWM
6. K4FSJ/9
7. W9SOM

Sales of the books of tickets, for the door prizes, have been quite encouraging. Book of 12 tickets are \$10.00, single tickets \$1.00. Requests for books of tickets will be mailed promptly to the county hunters desiring. Mail requests to: Max Stephens, Hopedale, Ill. 61747. 1st prize- TR4 W/mobile power supply, 2nd- RCA portable color TV, 3rd- TA 33 Mosley beam. Many other door prizes will be given by drawings. If anyone has connections on sources for prizes, contact Ray, VE3CBY with your suggestions. Note the early bird GOODIE FREE CONVENTION. Anyone not receiving convention forms please let W9SOM know and they will be forwarded. There will be a Mini Convention in New York City, April 1. WB2SJK will have information regarding where and how to get there as soon as possible. Lois and I will attend and have latest Convention information. See you there, 73's Max W9SOM

SSB COUNTY HUNTER'S CONTEST
Sponsored by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

The object of this test is to work as many stations in as many U. S. counties as Possible.

2200 CMT, Friday, April 7th to 0500 GMT, Monday, April 10th.

RECOMMENDED FREQUENCIES: 3.925/3.975, 7.250/7.275, 14.275/14.300, 21350/21.375, 28.575/28.600.

No credit will be allowed for contacts on the 14.336, 14.340 and 3.943 nets.

A station is to be worked only once per band in each county. Mobiles and portables can be worked again from different counties. Portables will be considered "fixed" for scoring purposes.

A station may enter both fixed and mobile categories of the test. The exchange consists of: a signal report, consecutive QSO number, county and state (country for DX stations). Copy of the signal report and QSO number is necessary for contest credit. Mixed mode contacts are permissible.

Scoring: Each complete contact with a fixed station - 1 point.

Each complete contact with a mobile station - 2 points.

The multiplier will be the number of U. S. counties worked plus the number of countries worked (per DXCC list). Total points X the multiplier determines the final score.

Contacts with stations on a county line count for one contact, but two or more multipliers.

LOG DATA: Date and time in GMT, the complete report exchanged, frequency and points claimed. Each new multiplier is to be numbered consecutively.

MARAC log sheets are required for all entries. Entries to be grouped by band on separate sheets.

CERTIFICATES: Special plaques to the highest scoring fixed, mobile and DX station. Certificates to the top three fixed and mobile operators in each U. S. call area and to top scoring fixed stations in each VE call area and DX country. Fixed multi-op and other certificates to be awarded as merited. List of winners to appear in CQ magazine and MARAC newsletter.

Entries must be postmarked by May 1st to contest chairman: KL0ME, Richard C. Roth
56 Harrington St., Watertown, Mass. 02172

Extra contest information sheets, summary and log sheets may be obtained by sending SASE (4½ by 9½ inch envelope) to WAØZCQ, Olin Munger 6004 N. W. 68 Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri 64151. Free to DX stations upon request.

NEW MEMBERS AND ADDRESS CHANGES

WB6YHD ^{ACTEV}	Robert Clapp 16426 Glenhope Dr. La Puente Calif. 91744	R-246
WB2MRA ^{OW}	Samuel Knox 212 N. Jerome Ave. Margate City, N. J. 08402	R-247
WA5ALBA ^{ESB}	John C. Dyer Box 1151 Graham, Tex. 76046	R-248
WB9DFJ ^{W9NS}	James L. Moon 5714 N. Hamilton Rd. Peoria, Ill. 61614	R-249
KØSIF ^{SOV}	John Porter 10215 Wheeling K. C. Mo. 64134	R-250
K2CFR is now K200 Jack Dubois 5667 Birch Ave. Pennsauken N. J. 08109		R-172
WBØCYD	Les Craft, 46 Reed Place Ft. Walton Beach Florida 32548	R-180
William Nash Three Rivers N. Apt 1401 Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46802		C-61

THE MEMBERS SPEAK CONTINUED-

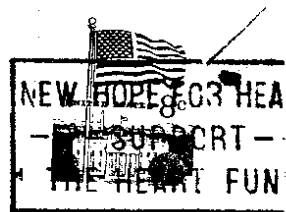
KØARS Anyone having information on who ran Pemiscott county Mo. May 22, 1971 at 0453 on 3.943 (copied call as WAØYRT) or same date someone ran Izzard county, Ark. on 3.943 copied call as WAØYAP, let me know if you have information. Jim thinks it would be a good idea to keep reminding county hunters about the first time QSL card for mobile contacts and to also use mobile cards.

WAØYJL Will be covering all central, west and S. W. counties in Kansas the weekend of Mar 31 to Apr 2. Will run each county line on 20 Mtr and immediately QSY to 40 mtrs 7.265 to 7.270, wherever QRM is least. Will have two antennas on car and can switch very quickly. Will be on 75 mtr at night- 3.943. I ask all stations who may be net controls to give me consideration as I will be by myself and hope to cover a lot of counties. Please send your lists as soon as possible so I can plan my trips. I have to work counties in between classes in Wichita so the lists will be of great help.

WB5AKI An occasional ohmmeter check of your mobile whip, from coax to coil and coil to tip, may show a high resistance at the fold-over, spring, ball joint base, etc. High resistant corrosion probably won't show on your SWR meter, but will lower the receive level. If anything but very near zero ohms is found; a good cleaning and the use of an anti-corrosion compound such as "Penatrox" at all the joints on re-assembly will make it work like a new one again.

The latest report from Don, W7OK shows the COUNTY HUNTER HISTORY moving very slowly. We need your help to get it together, so please take the time to do it now. 73's WØYLN

marac NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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C-5