

COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

Editor R. Dyson KOAYO 8943 S. Overhill Circle DeSoto Kansas 66018
(913-585-3212)

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Net Operating Tips By Mitch, W4RKV

The name of the game in county hunting is to work the mobiles direct if at all possible and thereby avoid time consuming relays, without making an honest effort to make direct contact. It gets a little aggravating after a while to have to keep relaying in the same station time after time (when you know they didn't call during the mobile's run), only to have them send the mobile a 5-5 or better. Since a 5-anything by definition is "perfectly readable", why didn't the station try and make contact during the regular run? If only a latecomer, why not wait and work the mobile direct on his last call?

Speaking of relays, have you noticed how often a "direct" will call in on the very first call for relays, this after repeated QRZ's from the mobile elicited no calls? My feeling on this is that the "direct" had his chance to work the mobile during the regular run, and now I should help those who genuinely need a relay and have been patiently(?) waiting. The "direct" can then make contact on the mobile's last call, time permitting.

A final suggestion on relays: when helping the mobile with relays, it is much quicker to take a list rather than acknowledge the calls singly, as in "W9ABC got you, who else needs a relay". Why not just say you'll take a list of relays, copy down what you hear, then feed them in one after the other? The most time consuming of all is to solicit and relay in the calls one by one, as in "W8DEF go to the mobile: (reports are exchanged), then "That's a good one, who else needs a relay for XYZ, NV?" and on and on.

(Editors Note: These essays by Mitch are a repeat from two years ago, not only for those new folks but ALSO for all of us OLD TIMERS. Get well soon and get back with us Mitch! Bob, KOAYO)

Dateline CW

By Ed, KN4Y

To leave 1992 with a burst of song,
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To run the county and leave it fast
To return the MRC remembers the year that's past.

Gator arrived just as the mail person delivered a thick envelope from the Mobile QSL Bureau. "Looks like another batch of MRC's, I wonder what trip they are for," I muttered under my breath. "Don't kid me," roared Gator, grinning like a yellow picket fence. "I know RC comes in a bottle," "I said MRC which means Mobile Return Card. When I go out running a county the county hunters I worked send me a card to verify the contact," I said slowly. "Sure seems silly to me since youse both know where youse where and to have dem send youse a card to tell where youse was don't make good sense, I think youse county hunters have been out to the still once to often," laughed Gator, a living example of one having been there once to often. "Gator, go get a beer and I will explain what this is all about before your neutrino circuits short out," I said pointing to the refrigerator, "The cards I got in the mail list the counties that person worked me in. I check each contact with my log and when verified I sign the card and send it back," I paused as I unscrewed the cap on my pen and then continued, "You remember last month you talked to that YL in Hootersville and you sent each other a post card to verify the contact on Channel 3..." "What the heck is a YL?," said Gator, busting right in like a county hunter with diarrhea. "That means Young Lady in code."

"She weren't no lady and she sure weren't young."

"Gator! Do you want to know about the MRC's?"

"Yep!"

"Then shut up for a minute."

"OK don't get huffy, have a chew."

No thanks, like I was saying the cards are returned and the

county hunters can use the contacts to get awards, like when you get food for the stamps you get from Sam's office, do you understand Gator?" I said, hoping for a miracle. "Sho do, it is what we CB'ers call a QSL card," said Gator with that gotcha tone of voice. "Do everyone return the cards or do they cash in the stamps like that fella in Cheapsville?" continued Gator. I controlled my surprise and indicated with a sad look that no, not all the cards are returned. "Why not have a no send list like...sorry I hear Bubba calling on the CB, gotta run, have to catch a possum for the Bar-B-Que over at the church, see you later," and Gator roared off into the sunset. (Gator's pickem-up does not have a muffler because he equates noise with horsepower)

A quick glance upward with an unspoken thanks as I thought about what Gator said about a list. It might work, the county hunters could compile a list of mobile operators who do not want to fool with MRC's, or perhaps at the start of a run the mobile can announce no MRC's. Then only those who do not need the county confirmed can work the mobile. For instance, for Bingo or third time around and other awards for which a written confirmation is not required. What say county hunters? Send me your comments or to the newsletter editor. Please keep in mind this would probably only apply to 1 percent or less of the mobile operators and this effort may not be worthwhile.

Ever wonder what happens when you send MRC's to the Mobile QSL Bureau? I decided to find out and sent 54 MRC's to the Bureau on November 3. All zones were involved and all contacts were on CW. A progress report will be made so do not let your newsletter subscription expire.

The new year brings a happy face to the spouse of many CW enthusiast who got their USA CA award in 1992: Mark, W9OP, 748; Steve, K9AGB, 749; Bill, K2NJ, 756; Ed, KN4Y, 757; Ray, N7POK, 769; Skip, AA2AV, 770; Joyce, KD8HB, 771; Hal, W8PN, 772; Darrel, KK6BB, 774; Lou, NW1O, 779; Ken, NC2O, 781; Norm, W3DYA, 784. Please let me know if I missed anyone, my records are like the deficit, out of control.

Heard operating mobile on the CW net in November were:

NG0T, N5QLZ, KB4XK, KG5J, W3XE, KA4IFF, NA7R, KM8U, AA4G, WU4S, AA4HL, W4MRD, KD8HB, K4QFK, WN3C, W5BOT, K7DZE, K1RH, WD3P, WA2MUA, N9DR, KC2CK, KA3MMM, WA1UDH, KA4RZZ, W5ASP, W0WYJ, KC4XA, NO2W, WB4EQF, K5HKX, WA6VJP, KC5P, WA2UJH, WD7X, NA5F, WB4KMH, W3DYA, W0QWS, NW1O, N0CYB, and in addition to mobile operation KF9FU also put the club station WB0DPD on the net.

Helen and I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year and that elusive USA CA number.

DON'T GET DIXCOURAGED. NOBODIE IS PERFECT"
Author Unknown --Contributed by N4FSZ

NEW USA-CA Director

Beginning Jan 1, 1993, the USA-CA Director and Contributing Editor for the **CQ Awards Column** will be Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY, Box 76, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453-0076. All applications and correspondence regarding the USA-CA Program should be directed to Norm.

Dorothy Johnson, WB9RCY, the outgoing Director expresses her past enjoyment in her association with **CQ** and the Awards Program; but after ten years, she says it is time to go on to other things. To all her friends, old and new, she wishes all the best.

A Letter From The New USA-CA Director

My interest in Amateur Radio stems from service as a Radio-Man in the US Navy from 1948-1952. I was licensed in 1972, and have been an active Ham since.

I have been County Hunting since I retired and have confirmed 2,589 counties. Other Ham activities include Contesting and DXing. I am a small gun in contests, but feel the big guys need lots of little guns to get their big scores. Traffic handling and Assistant Coordinated for Northeastern Pennsylvania for Navy-Marine Corps round out my amateur activities.

I retired 3 years ago after a thirty year career in Pennsylvania's Mental Health/Retardation system. I held senior management positions in County Mental Health programs and State Psychiatric Hospitals. My last assignment was assistant Superintendent of a State Hospital. My wife, Carol, and I operate a home for elderly people. I graduated from Muhlen-

MARAC AWARDS

Van Peterson, K4QFK, Awards Custodian
PO Box 48307, Cumberland, NC 28331

berg College and hold a Masters degree from Penn State University.

I look forward to serving the Amateur Community as Director of the USA-CA Program and contributing editor for the **CQ Awards** column. It will be difficult to fill Dorothy's shoes and I join the **CQ** family in wishing her well and thanks for a job well done.

Maintaining the integrity of the USA-CA Program will be highest priority for me. 73, Norm

JANUARY 1993

As the new year rings in the Awards Program is fully up and running and most of the problems encountered have been solved at this end, but we are all subject to make mistakes and I will try to be tolerant of yours as I ask you to be of mine.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEW SECOND TIME AROUND HOLDERS:

# 145	STUART JOHNSON WU4S	11/27/92
# 146	CLYDE KANE KA0NVT	11/27/92
# 147	JOHN ROBSON WB9STT	11/28/92

In the past there has been much confusion concerning the "Mobile" Awards, Categories 1 thru 4, so I will try to clear that up now; Category 1 and 3 are for TRANSMITTING (Putting out, giving, etc) as a MOBILE from STATES(CAT 1), COUNTIES(CAT 3), Category 2 and 4 are for WORKING THE SAME MOBILE in STATES (CAT 2) and COUNTIES (CAT 4).

Ex: K4QFK works N9DEH in 500 counties; K4QFK would apply for a CAT 4 award for himself for WORKING N9DEH in 500 counties and if he wanted to send the mobile an award for these contacts, He would apply for a CAT 3 award for N9DEH for TRANSMITTING 500 counties to K4QFK. Part of the confusion has resulted from the "wording" in the awards information packet, this has now been changed.

One other problem with the MOBILE Awards is when they are up-graded; Since in the past the WRONG CATEGORY has been applied for AND ISSUED, when you apply for an upgrade, the original award will be up-graded as issued, I cannot correct all of these errors from the past. Another problem is the NUMBER of the award that you are requesting to be up-graded, If you originally applied for the award AND applied for an award for the MOBILE, your number and the mobiles number will NOT BE THE SAME, but should be logged in as the number before or after yours (Or Close) so that if you are also applying for the upgrade for the mobile I will be able to look it up for you.

The COSTS of Awards seems to be another issue, so we will recap that; The BASIC cost of all Awards is \$2.00 for MARAC members and \$3.00 for Non-members (If you are a QSL Manager for another station and HE/SHE is NOT a member the cost is \$3.00) (Certificates), The MARAC "Car" Plaque is \$20.00, and \$30.00 for Non-members, The large Plaque is \$40.00, and \$50.00 for Non-members.

The cost for the FIVE BAND COUNTIES AWARD is \$10.00 for the basic award, \$20.00 for Non-members, WHEN APPLYING FOR ANY PLAQUE, THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR THE ACCOMPANYING

FOURTH TIME AROUND ANNOUNCEMENT

The B&B Shop is pleased to announce the following winner of the

IV AWARD

The Fourth Time Award # 22
is awarded to

W3HQU
HENRY C. LYBRAND
DECEMBER 11, 1992

Endorsed: ALL CW
MIXED BANDS

USA-CA Special Honor Roll

Our congratulations go to Charles "Bart" Bartlett, N7LWX, who has earned his place on the **USA-CA Special Honor Roll** sponsored by **CQ Magazine**. Bart qualified for #790 All 20M SSB Mobile, 11-20-92.

"There are a very select few who can communicate sensibly and reasonably about any controversial subject without offending anyone. Then there are all the other Hams."
Unknown - contributed by N4FSZ.

CERTIFICATE. There is **NO Charge** for up-grading the Awards(Seals)

For Awards that require a "LIST" you may use any of the "Books" currently available , such as CQ, Mobile QSL Bureau, B&B Shop, etc., OR A Computer Print-out as long as the Counties are in Alphabetical Order by State and entries contain the basic information required. When sumitting for the 2nd time award and the book you are using does not contain a "Certification" statement such as the CQ book, or you are submitting a computer print-out, you must "type" or "copy" such statement and attach it to the book or print-out.

If you are applying for any of the MARAC Awards and do not have a copy of The Awards Information Packet, I will send you one for a business size sase with 2 units of postage, (currently 52 cents). Please send a **BUSINESS SIZE SASE** When requesting any INFO or Forms. If you are requesting Application forms, except LC-1,2 and 3, I can send 4 for one unit of postage, LC slips (12).

SOME TIPS WHEN FILLING OUT THE LC SLIPS:

Whether you are using the Old or New slips, Please fill out **ONLY** the upper **LEFT** part of the slip, If you want to say something "personal" on the **STUB**, use **ONLY** the Address section at the top. Information in the wrong place will be "over-typed" by the printer and made illegible. LC Awards are from **YOU** and to the **MOBILE**. "The Last County for the whole USA", whatever the reason, is an LC-2 Award and because it also happens to be the last county for one of the States does not constitute another LC-1 Award.

I have received a few awards applications with less than the proper amount, I have processed these and sent you a slip requesting the additional funds, I will not return awards applications unless this is repeated. I have also received many applications with too much money and have notified you of such, If there is a reason for these additional funds, Please state the purpose.

POLICY REGARDING LAST COUNTY AWARDS THAT YOU APPLY AND PAY FOR ON BEHALF OF YOURSELF: Last County applications received FOR you BY you must be accompanied by one of the following; An LC Application slip filled out and **SIGNED** by the person that you gave the last county to, OR , A copy of the MRC that you signed plainly stating that it was for the Last County, OR , QSL Card which states that the contact was for the Last county and lists that county. **ANY OF THESE REQUESTS SHOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL YOU KNOW THAT THE STATION IS NOT SUBMITTING FOR THE AWARD OR A GREAT AMOUNT OF TIME HAS PASSED.** Any such requests will be checked in the Data Base for duplication. I would like to suggest to stations who do not plan to give last county awards for whatever reason, (Some people cannot afford them, or only give them out for the first time around, etc) That you send a "Filled out and Signed" LC slip to the Mobile to at least afford him the opportunity to apply for the award.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: As of this writing I have not received a nomination from every district for a awards committee representative so the Committee will consist of those that I do have at present:

PACIFIC DISTRICT- Gene Eggerbratten, W7GVF

NORTH EAST- John Butler, WB2NFB

GREAT LAKES- Paula Batema, N8EMV

NORTH CENTRAL- Carl Durnavich, KF9FU

SOUTH EAST- Jim Thomas, KB4XX

AWARDS CUSTODIAN- Van Peterson, K4QFK

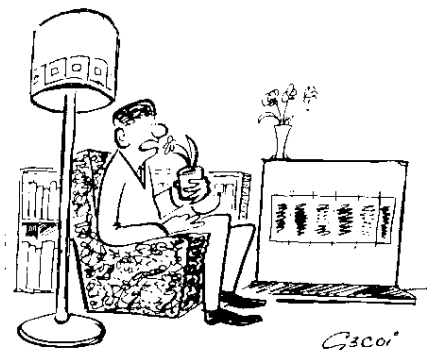
If you have any questions about the awards program, not related to processing of the awards, or suggestions for changes, etc. Contact the Awards representative in your district or your District Director. (In some cases this is the same person).

I have imposed only one Mandate on the Awards Committee and that is that **ANY** Changes made to the Awards Program other than Administrative matters will be decided on by the Members of MARAC after such proposals have been published this Newsletter. Administrative changes such as the increasing of and adding levels to already existing awards will be decided by the Awards Committee as a whole. I feel that this Committee will fairly represent the Members of MARAC, I did not pick them because I do not want them to represent me. We will do our best for the Membership but I doubt that we will obtain perfection.

During the first Month (Actually five weeks) which included my training session and help from Bill, W00WY, we processed a total of 1,015 Awards. Thank You for your Patience and allowing me to "catch up". I expect to be a little "quicker" after the second month.

DON'T FORGET YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!

Late Item. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY do not send any applications for the Washington County Award. The Award is **NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME**, and until you hear from me, **DO NOT SEND IN ANY APPLICATIONS.** PETE, K4QFK.



"I built everything here to harmonize with the furniture . . ."

**FIFTH TIME AROUND
ANNOUNCEMENT**

The B&B Shop
is pleased to announce
the following winner of the

**FIFTH TIME AROUND
AWARD**

The Fifth Time Award # 5
is awarded to

N7AKT
R.A. "Scotty" SCOTT
November 20, 1992

Endorsed: MIXED MODES
MIXED BANDS

quality of his life, and helped him visit the world through their eyes.

Thank You

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for the many cards, letters and phone calls during my recent hospitalization for surgery. You'll never know how much I appreciated them. It also proved to me that a 63 year old county hunter c can still enjoy a good cry.....

I came home exactly one week after the surgery, weak as a kitten, but am gaining strength day by day. The prognosis looks good for a complete recovery, but it will take several weeks to get back to normal. Just for info, I had a left carotid artery endarterectomy (rotorooter) plus seven heart bypasses, so they got me with a double whammy. Again, my sincere thanks and I love you all. Mitch, W4RKV.

MARAC Financial Report

Checking Acc't 11-1-92	\$ 2,024.82
Income	3,673.80
Expenses	3,717.90
Checking Acc't 11-30-92	\$ 1,980.72
Savings Acc't 11-1-92	11,638.26
Transfer to Checking	1,200.00
Savings Acc't 11-30-92	\$10,438.26

**Address Changes, Corrections,
Etc**

C73 KSKDG Rt 10 Box 766 Mtn Home AR 72653-8675
Correction to Last months entry -- C71 SHOWN AS WA0LRQ
SHOULD HAVE BEEN C71 WA0LRC
R2002 N6OQZ 1192 Via Alta Santa Maria CA 93455-5642
R2334 ND3T 1830 SE Van Skiver Rd Port Orchard WA 98366
R196 W5VEO 135 Sisterdale Rd Boerne TX 78006 (Kendall)
R1156 WA5DTK 3445-B Rebecca Ln Colorado Springs CO
80917-5141 (El Paso)
R1187 WD9GBH 5489 W Warren St Silverlake IN 46982
(Kosciusko)
R2296 WD9HVQ 7937 Gun Cay Ave Orlando FL 32822

Silent Key

Word has been received of the recent death of
WB6TJW, USACA 1836, MARAC R1836, Oscar Reiner. Oscar
had been confined to a wheelchair during the past 21 years and
ham radio became his most important hobby. His family wishes
to thank all the fellow hams that contacted Oscar, enhanced the



"My husband's on the roof...
Oh, wait! Here he comes now!"

"Said one Mobile county hunter to a fixed station, "I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."
Unknown -- contributed by N4FSZ.

W5UJO Audio Cassette

Joe, W5UJO, reports a possible problem with the audio cassette adapter which allows the use of a mobile cassette player as an audio amplifier. In some units, insufficient audio output may be a problem. If you are experiencing this problem, Joe asks that you please return the unit to him and he will replace it. Be sure to include your name and mailing address with the old unit.

Incorrect Phone Number, W7KEU

Keith, W7KEU, reports that the phone number in the Directory for him is incorrect. The correct number is 316-232-5637. Please make note of this correction in your copy of the Directory.

Who Was That Mobile?

Wanted by KA9FUG, Dick, call sign of the mobile in Iredell Co, NC 3-13-92 at 0145Z; also, call sign of mobile on Hamilton/Kearney Co, KS on 11-10-92 at 1927Z.

Counties For Special Needs

WB0DPD, MARAC Club Station, 2nd Time, Any Officer

AL Autauga Henry Randolph Monroe CO Crowley
Denver Gilpin Moffat Pitkin GA Madison Tattnell Turner
LA St Helena MD Calvert Dorchester Howard St Marys
MA Franklin MI Iron MS Franklin Issaquena Pearl River
Smith

K6HZI Fr. Terry 3rd Time

KY Allen Bourbon Harlan MS Clay Smith PA Adams
Armstrong Mifflin TN Clay Johnson Warren

K5VYT Dick For 3rd Time 303-431-6354 after 2330Z
weekdays, all weekends

CO Mineral IL Hardin Shelby KS Ness NE Banner
Blaine Cherry Dixon Thomas PA Blair SD Bennett

K5VYT, Dick for BINGO

CO Delores FL Indian River Seminole Suwanee
GA Fannin Long Macon Newton IL Hamilton Hardin
Randolph Shelby Whiteside IA Crawford KS Sheridan MS

Lowndes NE Banner Blaine Boone Box Butte Cuming
Dawes Garden Thomas SD Brookings Hughes UT Wasatch
WV Pocahontas

PT2TF Teresa propagation is usually only between 2299 &
0100Z.

CO San Juan GA Bryan Charleston Lamar IL Clinton IN
Putnam Union IA Mitchell KS Cheyenne Logan
McPherson Marion Nemaha Ottawa Pottawatomie Wallace
KY Allen Lewis Monroe Pulaski Wayne LA Cameron
MD Garrett Queen Anne

Members Speak!

N9HRX, Katie --I'd like to express my sincere thanks for all the cards, phone calls and condolences in regard to the recent loss of my Mother. God bless you, one and all.

WU4S, Stu --I would like to thank all of you that helped me work all counties the 2nd Time. If I worked you in a Last County and you have not received credit (and you want it) please let me know. I have submitted to K4QFK all the Cat 1 awards. Again, Thank you.

W0UBT, Bud -- The end is in sight to complete my USA-CA (1st Time). Only about 100 more counties have to be worked and confirmed. The vast majority within a 500 mile radius of my home here in MN...typical when all of my contacts, except for a few, have been on the 20 meter net.

My main purpose in writing is to tell all of you to **NOT** repeat **NOT** give me any "one ringers". The reason is as follows: Because I have been deluged with "nuisance" calls of late, I have installed a Telephone Call Screener in my telephone line...plugging my telephone into my screener. A three (3) digit "access code" has to touch-toned in by my caller before my telephone will ring. Only my immediate family, and a very few others, have been apprised of that code. I'm very sorry about the situation but that is the way it has to be...at least for now...trust me. Please pass the word, thank you.

WA2AKB, Aaron --I'm sorry to report that all MRC's, QSL's etc sent to my home from the Mobile QSL Bureau on or about October 27, 1992 were lost in the mail. Hopefully the various stations will re-submit their cards if they see this notice. I am new at county hunting so every possible confirmation is critical. Also, will each of you PLEASE send me your personal QSL for first time contacts. I enjoy taking special trips to give out the majority of NY state and surrounding counties, weather and time permitting.

KB3GN, George -- I believe that the original concept was to foster a sense of "togetherness" and the chance to say "thank

you" for all the counties the mobiles give out. Also, it was to provide the mobile operator with the opportunity to use fixed stations as contacts towards the USA-CA Award. There are now other awards that have become available which also require many contacts, like the Five Band and Five Star. These are infinitely more challenging to us all. Again, mobile contacts do provide an additional source to accomplish these goals as do fixed station contacts.

As a "take 'em whenever you can get 'em" operator who rarely gets time to operate as a fixed station, but loves to put out counties, my point of view is the "FIRST TIME" contact is not limited to once. I consider "FIRST TIME" to mean first time each band, first time since I got my number, first time since you got "THIRD TIME" or even first time since your sex change operation. There are a lot of awards out there so PLEASE ease the mobiles work load and send a QSL card with your county and your STAR info on it along with your MRC's.

KC9EU < Rich -- I thought I was the only one who did not receive signed MRC's from mobiles. From other letters to **Members Speak!**, I find that is not so. There are several of us that cannot understand why mobiles bother to run counties if they do not return cards. I wish somebody--either the Road Runner or the Mobile QSL Bureau would list the mobiles who do not sign MRC's for one reason or another. In June, 1992, the Mobile QSL Bureau listed 11 different reasons why mobiles do not sign MRC's -- I would like to know who those mobiles are so that I would not bother to send cards to them anymore.

One of the reasons listed is because there MRC contained only one contact! I am getting close to "Last County" in several states, and sometimes I need only that one contact. so I send the MRC hoping that mobiler isn't one of those who do not sign because of a single contact.

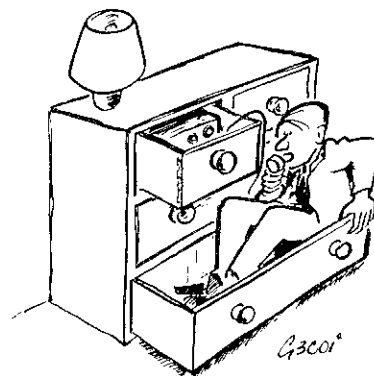
Some mobiles want the entire card filled up! If the above mobiler is running in several counties, counties that I already have QSL'ed and I need only one, it is a waste of my time, his/her time, and the time of other county hunters to make contacts in counties I do not need.

And the list goes on.

In front of me, I have a list of 16 mobiles to whom I have sent a QSL card, a MRC card and a SASE and have not heard from them. The contacts go back to November, 1991! Many of the MRC's have multiple contacts, so it really frustrates me thinking that perhaps these people are those that do not sign cards for one reason or another -- it's especially frustrating knowing I need those counties -- and it's frustrating knowing I wasted money. What do those people do with my SASE?

Like I said, I wish I had a list of those mobiles who do not sign cards. I wouldn't waste time, or money if I heard them on the air, even though I needed the county! In desperation, I have reworked some of the counties and now have them QSL'ed. Thanks to those mobiles who promptly sign and return MRC's.

KOAYO, Bob -- QRZ Mobiles, DX, AND QRP stations AND Close in (350 miles) stations. It is very frustrating it hear a mobile within 200 - 300 miles of you, ten minutes is up and the mobile gets the word to call for "Mobiles and DX" and a DX station comes back with a 33, or 55 both ways. It was easier for them to work the mobile then it was for the "close in" station who REALLY depends on unique band conditions to hear and be heard. Go to 40 you say! Great and I do if I can BUT that still doesn't "fill in that 20 meter band missing county". I believe that if the mobile runs out of time, limit him/her to "Mobiles Only" since they are so important to our endeavors, but do not discriminate us "close in or QRP NON-DX stations".



"... and when I finish operating everything stows away neatly."

Excerpt From "QST"

NN8R, Ray Grob, of Fremont OH recently wrote in to pass along his comments regarding the "...long past time when our archaic and meaningless system of signal reports should...change...". He proposes a scale of 1 to 3, Unreadable, readable with difficulty of fully readable; weak, fair or strong.

That would really speed things up on the net since the rules say, nothing less than a 2 x 2 report is acceptable. There could be no more complaints about "the ridiculous 2 x 2 guessing game" going on all the time. Everyone could honestly say "2 x 2 or 3 x 3"; that is if you really heard the station 3 X 3 and if you didn't you could say 2 X 2 and no one would think you might be guessing!

What do you think of THAT?

USA-CA RULES AND PROGRAM

The United States of America Counties Award sponsored by CQ is issued for confirmed two way radio contacts with specified numbers of U.S. counties under Rules and conditions hereafter stated (as of January 1, 1993).

A. Awards Classes:

The USA-CA is issued in seven (7) different classes, each a separate achievement as endorsed on the basic certificate by use of special seals for higher class. Also, special endorsements will be made for all one band or mode operations subject to the rules.

Class	Counties Required	States Required
USA-500	500	any
USA-1000	1000	25
USA-1500	1500	45
USA-2000	2000	50
USA-2500	2500	50
USA-3000	3000	50

**USA 3076-CA for ALL counties and
Special Honors Plaque \$40.00**

B. Conditions:

1. USA-CA is available to all licensed amateurs everywhere in the world and is issued to them as individuals for all county contacts made, regardless of calls held, operating QTHs, or dates.

Special USA-CA's also available to s.w.l.'s on a heard basis.

2. All contacts must be confirmed by QSL and such QSLs must be in one's possession for identification by certification officials.

3. Any QSL card found to be altered in any way disqualifies applicant.

4. QSOs via repeaters, satellites, moon bounce, and phone patches are NOT valid for USA-CA.

5. So-called "team" contacts, wherein one person acknowledges a signal report and another returns a signal report, while both amateur call signs are logged, are NOT valid for USA-CA. Acceptable contact can be made with only one station at a time.

C. County Identity

1. Unless otherwise indicated on QSL cards, the QTH printed on cards will determine county identity.

2. The National Zip Code & Directory of Post Offices will be helpful in some cases in determining identity of counties of contact as ascertained by name of nearest municipality. Publication No. 65 is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C 20402, Stock No. 039-000-00264-7, shipped only to U.S.A. or Canada.

3. For mobile and portable operations the postmark shall identify the county unless information stated on QSL cards makes other positive identity.

4. In the case of Cities, Parks, or Reservations not within counties proper, applicants may claim any one of adjoining counties for credit (Once).

D. Administration of USA-CA Program:

1. The USA-CA program will be administered by a CQ staff member acting as USA-CA Custodian, and all applications and related correspondence should be sent directly to him at his QTH.

2. Decisions of the Custodian in administering these Rules and their interpretation including future amendments are final.

E. Record Book and Bookkeeping:

1. The scope of USA-CA makes it mandatory that special Record Books be used for application. For this purpose, CQ has provided a 64-page 4" by 11" Record Book which contains application and certification forms and which provides record-log space meeting the condition of any Class award and/or endorsement requested.

2. A completed USA-CA Record Book constitutes medium of basic application and becomes the property of CQ for record purposes. On subsequent applications for either higher classes or for special endorsements, applicant may use additional Record Books to list required data or may make up own alphabetical lists conforming to requirements.

3. Record Books are to be obtained directly from CQ, 76 N. Broadway, Hicksville, N.Y. 11801 for \$2.00 each. Recommend two be obtained, one for application use and one for personal file copy.

F. Application:

1. Make Record Book entries necessary for county identity and enter other log data necessary to satisfy any special endorsements (band-mode) requested.

2. Have the certification form provided signed by two licensed amateurs (General Class or higher) or an official of a national-level radio organization or affiliated club verifying that QSL cards for all contacts as listed have been seen. The USA-CA Custodian reserves the right to request any specific cards to satisfy any doubt whatever. In such cases applicant should send sufficient postage for return of cards by registered mail.

3. Send *original* completed Record Book (NOT a copy) and certification forms and handling fee. Fee for non-subscribers to CQ is \$10.00 U.S. or 40 IRCs; for subscribers the fee is \$4.00 or 12 IRCs. (Subscribers please include recent CQ mailing label.) Send to USA-CA Custodian, Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY, Box 76, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453-0076. For later applications for higher class seals, send Record Book or self-prepared list per rules and \$1.25 or 6 IRCs handling charge. For application for later special endorsements (Band/Mode) where certificates must be returned for endorsement, send certificate and \$1.50 or 8 IRCs for handling charges. *Note:* At the time any USA-CA award certificate is being processed, there are no charges other than the basic fee, regardless of number of endorsements or seals; likewise, one may skip lower classes of USA-CA and get higher classes without losing any lower awards credits or paying any fee for them. *Also Note:* IRC's NOT accepted from U.S. stations.

MARAC SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT MINI

ANNOUNCING: The 1993 South Central District Mini

DATES: March 4th, 5th and 6th, 1993

LOCATION: Lake Texoma Resort, Lake Texoma, Oklahoma - Near the TX-OK border on US 70
(Note: RV Space is available at the Resort)

DIRECTIONS: HWY US 70 13 miles West of US 75 at Durant, Oklahoma

ROOM RATE: All Rooms \$40.00 / Night + 5% Tax. A block of 60 rooms will be held until Feb. 1st.
After this date, rooms at the same rate AS AVAILABLE

RESERVATION: Write LAKE TEXOMA RESORT, Box 248; Kingston, OK 73439. Tel. (405) 564 - 2311

ACTIVITIES: Golf tourney Friday Morning. Choctaw Indian Bingo Friday Evening 5:30 PM. There will be a No Host Dinner at Sanfords Thursday or Friday evening if enough folks are interested. Indicate on Registration form how many to attend. (Note: If you missed the Potato Soup last year, you had best try to make it this year).

HOSPITALITY: Opens early Thursday, hosted by Joyce, WB9NUL

PRIZES: ALL PRIZE DONATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED

DINNER: Saturday Night Dinner, Buffet Style \$17.00/person. Includes choice of two meats, vegetables, salad, dessert and drink.

REGIS-TRATION: \$12.00 for OM/YL or \$9.00 single. Registration includes Name Tag, Group Photo and Drawing for any prizes

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

JERRY L. WEAVER, WD5JGS
RR #1, BOX 267
DENISON, TEXAS 75020
Tel. (903) 463 - 3231

1993 SOUTHCENTRAL MINI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____
SPOUSE _____ CALL _____ USA-CA _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
REGISTRATION FEE _____
BANQUET... _____ (#) AT \$17.00 _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED _____
CHOCTAW BINGO # _____ SANFORDS Dinner # _____

November 17, 1992



MICHIGAN MINI

April 15-17, 1993

- Announcing:** The 1993 Michigan Mini!
- Dates:** April 15, 16, and 17, 1993.
- Location:** Country Hospitality Inn, 12260 James Street, Holland, Michigan. The Inn is located on U.S. Highway 31 on the North side of Holland. It is adjacent to a Manufacturer's Outlet Mall and there is a nice golf course nearby.
- Room Rate:** Rooms, including a continental breakfast are \$44.00 for a single and \$49.00 for a double, plus tax. (Whirlpool rooms are \$69.00 on Thursday and \$83.00 on Friday and Saturday.)
- Reservations:** Send the motel reservations to Country Hospitality Inn, P.O. Box 2153, Holland, Michigan 49422-2153 or telephone 616-396-6677 before March 22, 1993. Mention County Hunters or Ham Radio to obtain rates.
- Prizes:** Any prize donations will be appreciated.
- Raffle:** Again this year there will be a drawing on Saturday evening for a home brew mobile amplifier. A limited number of tickets will be available for a \$5 donation. You need not be present to win.
- Dinner:** A Saturday night dinner is \$15.00 per person including tax and tip.
- Registration:** \$12 for OM & YL or \$9 for single. Registration includes name tag and group photo. Mail registration, dinner and raffle donations to N8EMV, Paula Batema, 1567 66th Street, Ferrville, Michigan 49408 as soon as possible. Please include the calls, names and USA-CA #'s of all who will be attending.

The MICHIGAN GROUP hopes you will be able to attend this year's Mini.

1993 MICHIGAN MINI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM:

Name _____ Call _____ USA-CA _____

Spouse _____ Call _____ USA-CA _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Registration Fee _____

Banquet _____ (#) at \$15.00 _____

Raffle Donations _____ (#) _____

Total Enclosed _____

The County Line Road Runner is a monthly publication of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc., (MARAC). MARAC's stated purpose is to promote mobile amateur radio efficiency and portability; recognize and award outstanding accomplishments in amateur radio with emphasis on mobile operation, both phone and CW and to promote good will and fraternalism among amateurs. MARAC also serves as the communication and social arm of the county hunters. Current MARAC dues and membership information can be obtained by sending a business size envelope with postage for 1 ounce to **MARAC P O Box 9112 Mesa AZ 85214** and request the Information Packet.

The Officers are:

PRES - Don Strom, WA0LKL; 11421 Johnson Cr. Bloomington MN 55437. **VP** - Bob Hanson, W0KMH; 9 Hillside Ct. Northfield MN. **SEC** - Shel Mann, N0DRX; 1618 West Pine St Stillwater MN 55082. **TREAS** - John Lyon, W9LHG; 2346 Dorothy Lane White Bear Lake MN 55110.

The Directors are:

HQ - Mary Mann, N0DXH; 1618 West Pine St Stillwater MN. 55082 Vern Olson, WA0RJJ; 4024 NW 3rd St. Rochester MN 55091. Jerry Koon, W0NNH; 8326 Grenadier Ave So Cottage Grove MN 55016. **PACIFIC** - Gene Eggebraten, W7VGF; 9114 31st Ave. Northwest, Seattle, WA 98117. **NORTHEAST** - John Butler, WB2NFB; P O Box 941, Johnstown NY 12095. **GREAT LAKES** - John Sebastian, N8BGF; 758 Southwind Dr Fairfield OH 45014. **NORTH CENTRAL** - Carl Durnavich, KF9FU; 427 Calumet Blvd Harvey IL 60426. **SOUTHEAST** - Gene Tyree, N4ANV; 522 N. Sumac Circle Fayetteville, NC. 28304. **SOUTH CENTRAL** - Joyce Booth, WB9NUL; Rt 6 Box 748A Harlingen, TX 78552.

Other members of the Board include:

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Jim Whitaker, WB0TVL; 3019 O'Henry Rd Minneapolis MN 55429; **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** - Bob Dyson, K0AYO; 8943 S Overhill Circle De Soto KS 66018. **AWARDS CHAIRMAN** - Pete Peterson, K4QFK; P O Box 48307, Cumberland, NC. 28331.

Other Information:

The annual dues are \$16 per year with Newsletter sent via First Class Mail in the U.S. Addresses within the U.S. can join with Newsletter mailing via Third Class Mail for \$13 per year. DX Newsletters (non North America) are sent via Air Mail for \$25 per year. Send all membership dues and address change notifications to the Secretary.

MOBILE QSL BUREAU; Route 3 Box 400 Timmonsville, SC 29161. **USA-CA CUSTODIAN**; Norm Van Raay, WA3RTY; Box76, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453-0076. The B & B Shop; P O Box 83403 Phoenix AZ 85071.

Articles and items to be included in the Newsletter must be in the Newsletter Editor's hands prior to the 20th of the month preceding publication. Time bounded material received after that date may not be included in the next issue at the discretion of the editor.

MARAC is incorporated in the State of Kansas as a Not-For-Profit corporation. The Resident Agent is J. S. Skaptason, 3905 West 120th Terr., Leawood Ks 66209.

DISCLAIMER

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