

COUNTY LINE ROAD RUNNER

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Great Lakes, Paula Batema, N8EMV;
North Central and DX, Carl Durnavich, KB9FU.
North East, John Butler, WB2NFB;
Pacific, Bill Moore, K7IOO;
South Central, Joyce Booth, WB9NUL;
South East, Jim Thomas, KB4XK;
At large members: Pete Peterson, K4QFK, and Joe Parsons, W5UJO.

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Deadline for next Newsletter:

October 20, 1995

CQ-CW

by Harry, NFØX

The first chill of fall was in the air. Not yet frosty enough to kill the ticks and chiggers but enough so a body could settle in the rocking chair on the front porch in comfort and dream of long CW runs in rare counties. I could tell by the way Flattop was fighting his way through the now dying horseweeds in the gully that he had heavy stuff on his mind.

He brushed the dead weed chaff from his beard, held himself to a cool one from my cooler, settled himself in the other rocker and got that thousand-yard stare without speaking a word.

"What's up Flattop," I probed. "What's that you have?" pointing to the obvious copy of *QST*.

"Well, I wuz laz' round this morning, fumin' bout how lousy the bands are so I decided to catch up with my readin'." I allowed as how that was commendable and encouraged him to get on with it.

"You would think," he went on, "that people would retain some sense of friendliness, dignity and humility toward their fellow man. You know, stuff they learnt' in kindergarten. But all you have to do is dial around the bands to see that some must lead a very unhappy life so they take it out on others with insults, pious lectures and generally being undignified in behavior. No wonder the FCC is seriously thinkin' of selling off frequency blocks to the highest bidder! Now comes this article in the April 1995 issue of *QST*, "The Invasion of Ugliness" by Jim Chathan, W4TNE, that hits the nail on the head! Boy! Every Elmer should make this required reading for their students and every ham ought to have it posted at the operating position as a reminder when things don't go to their choosin'."

I remembered the article and told Flattop I agreed with it whole heartedly.

"Well, Flattop, you can't change people whose heart is as cold as a bank loan officer's. Just follow the good advice of Jim and resist the temptation of verbally punching them out. Fortunately, we don't have all those problems on CW except sometimes in heated DX pile-ups. In all our years of working the CW County Hunter's nets, have you ever heard a discouraging word?" I asked.

"Never!" Flattop came alive with enthusiasm. "That's what makes it so great. Friendly, respectful helpful level-headed people is what you will find there. Folks having good fun and enjoying their air time without any hassle."

"Yep," I agreed. "CW is probably the last bastion of civilized ham conduct. Long may it live!"

Been reviewing the new USA-CA rules that became effective July 1, 1995. I think the USA-CA Custodian took some advice that was not clearly thought through. As Bob, N4CD, pointed out to me, the rule of not being able to run a county line on a road that runs down a county line for miles and in many cases is called a "County Line Road" by signs and on the maps is ludicrous. I have to agree with him. In my area alone there are several "County Line" roads and across the country there must be hundreds of them. The new rule that you can no longer count any (one) adjoining county of an Independent City is also of questionable value. Is there any proof that the old rule was every abused? Nor running wet county lines I can agree with, but I would hasten to say it is probably violated more than any other rule. But now that the rules have been established and published (once in *CQ Magazine* and once in the *Road Runner*) why has there not been more effort to educate the new County Hunters who have become active since July 1, 1995, especially the

mobiles? Or, as Bob told me, "... perhaps we should change the name of *The County Line Road Runner* to *The County Line Road Kill*. As of about two weeks ago, *CQ* had not put the new rules in its County Hunter's Record Books. Come on people! Get it together!

Ever get the feeling when you list people who have done something you would leave someone out? One slap on the hand for leaving Bob, N4CD, off the list of CW operators attending the New York convention. So moved.

On August 17, 1995, the CW County Hunters lost a dedicated supporter when Norm Wasson, W6NNV, became a Silent Key. Norm held USA-CA 589, all CW. He was the victim of an apparent heart attack as reported by Ed, WA6VJP. Norm was a dear friend and a true gentleman, an A-1 mobile operator and net control.

Awards Committee Actions

Carl Durnavich, KF9FU, is the new appointed Awards Committee Coordinator, appointed to ease the workload for the Awards Custodian.

To keep the record straight from the beginning, all questions pertaining to your submitted awards and associated questions will continue to go to the Awards Custodian, Pete Peterson, K4QFK.

The committee accepts proposals for new awards and rule changes and your Award Committee Representative will attempt to assist you both on the items presented below and in the future. All proposals will be announced in the *Road Runner* and members will have 45 days to comment to their representative.

Awards Committee Representatives (by region): Great Lakes, Paula Batema, N8EMV; Northeast, John Butler, WB2NFB; Pacific, Bill Moore, K7IOO; Southeast, Joyce Booth, WB9NUL; Southeast, Jim Thomas, KB4XK; Northcentral and DX, Carl Durnavich, KB9FU. At large members: Pete Peterson, K4QFK, and Joe Parsons, W5UJO.

Two proposals are now before the committee:

Proposal 1 — Second Time Around rule change. The proposal requests a confirmed/non-confirmed option as all but MARAC's "First Time" Award presently has. Comment to your representative by November 20.

Proposal 2 — To eliminate the minimum signal report (currently "22") requirement. This proposal has been referred to the USA-CA Custodian for review and possible action. Based on action from the *CQ Magazine* representative, the Awards Committee will review and act. If the USA-CA Custodian approves the proposal, it seems wise for MARAC to follow, although individuals may still choose to self-impose their own minimum rule for their own contacts. Comment to your representative by November 20, although Committee action depends on USA-CA response.

KF9FU stresses that all proposals seek your input first. The Awards Committee will then act. Finally, the Board of Directors has the authority to approve or disapprove of the committee action.

MARAC Awards

Van Peterson, K4QFK, Awards Chairman
P.O. Box 48307, Cumberland, NC 28331-8307 (910) 424-4483

Changes are coming to the awards committee to make it more efficient. I have asked the President to name Carl Durnavich, KF9FU, to the position of Awards Committee Coordinator. As such Carl would direct all actions of the Awards

Committee without everything having to first go through me. This will give me a bit more breathing room and, I believe, serve the membership better. This will not be one of those glamour positions, but rather a working position. I will remain as a member-at-large of this committee.

I am pleased to announce the following new Second Time Around award winners:

- 187 Gene Tyree, N4ANV, August 28, 1995
- 188 Ed Daigne, W5ILR, September 13, 1995
- 189 Rudy Lauber, HB9RG, September 15, 1995
- 190 Carol Morkrid, N0LDT, September 16, 1995

Award of the Month

This month we will talk about the LC-3 Award.

The LC-3 Award is one given FREE by MARAC for having given out 25 Last Counties. Each of these awards is the same, that is, it is awarded after you have earned 25 Last County Category 1 or 2 Awards.

This award is not given automatically and must be applied for! This award consists of a Certificate with ALL seals which is issued for giving out 25 last counties and endorsed with the total last counties that you have given out, q.v., 25, 50, 75, etc. The first three awards, 25, 50 and 75 last counties, include the MARAC Mobile Plaque (Car) with appropriately engraved plate. At the 100 last county level you will receive the MARAC Special Plaque (Large plaque with mounted car) with appropriately engraved plate. At the 125 level and thereafter, through 375, you will receive a small plate, engraved with the award number and number of last counties, which is attached to the large plaque. At the 400 level you receive another large plaque and we repeat this procedure again.

Filling out the form: For this award we use the LC-3 application form; The information that you will need to complete the application is on the "Stubs" that you receive for each last county award.

Line (1); Put your name and Call

Line (2); Put the level that you are applying for 25, 50, etc.

Line (3); For each sequence number (Found on stub), starting with the first for this award, list the following information: *Certificate number* (Your form may say Award number), *Seal Color* (Red, blue or gold), *Certificate* (If its the first award for that certificate) or *All* if it is an LC-2 award, *State* (Use standard two-letter postal abbreviation) and the *Award Date* (This is the date that the award was ISSUED and NOT the date of the contact.

List all 25 awards in sequence order. Thus, if you are applying for the award at the 75 Last County level you would begin with sequence No. 51 and proceed through No. 75.

There is NO need to fill out anything at the bottom of this form. After I have issued you 25 last counties, I will certainly know your name and address. Again, this award is issued FREE

so all you have to do is fill out the application and send it to me and the award will be issued.

YL-OM Team Award

I will begin taking applications for the new YL-OM Team Award beginning November 1. Application forms may be obtained by SASE from me or at the 3M mini. I will hold all applications received between November 1 and November 30 and at that time, with a little help from my friends, will "draw" names to issue the first sequence numbers. Applications received after November 30 will be processed in the order received.

Rules for the YL-OM Team Award

1. Effective date for qualifying contacts for this award is retroactive beginning **January 1, 1990.**
2. Contacts **MUST CONFORM TO RULES OF USA-CA AWARD.** There must be two-way contact with each member of the "Team" (As required by *CQ Magazine*) so that these contacts with either team member may count for the USA-CA Award.
3. Teams may consist of any YL/OM pair who are operating from the same vehicle at the same time. The "Team" members do not have to be related, but, contacts made at separate times, which when put together, would form a "Team", are NOT valid for this award.
4. Contacts may be made on any Band/Mode **Both operators must be properly licensed to operate on chosen band/mode.** Award can be endorsed for a particular Band Mode or Mixed. No repeater or other non-simplex contacts allowed.
5. Contacts for this Award do not have to be confirmed for this award. As with other MARAC Awards, you may submit the list of contacts in any of the available log books, a computer printout or legibly printed or typed.

6. Requirements: Basic Certificate, 250 counties, with Red, Blue and Gold seals for 500, 750 and 1,000 counties. MARAC Plaque for 2,000 and 3,000 counties and MARAC Special Plaque for All Counties Worked with YL/OM Teams.

Net Operating Tips by Mitch, W4RKV

If I am out running counties, and on the mobile list, it behooves me to let the NCS know if I am going to be out of the vehicle for an extended period of time. (This would particularly apply to 18-wheelers loading or unloading, others out sightseeing or shopping, eating an extended mail, etc.) Otherwise, I may get dropped off the list or put into a limbo status. Many net control stations will put a mobile aside after three or more unanswered calls and leave him in limbo until he is heard again; it is very wasteful of net time to call a station time after time with no answer.

LAST COUNTY AWARD APPLICATION - CAT. 3

1 Name _____ Call _____

Award Level (25,50,etc) 2

Serial #	CERT#	SEAL	ST	AWARD DATE
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	_____	_____
11	_____	_____	_____	_____
12	_____	_____	_____	_____
13	_____	_____	_____	_____
14	_____	_____	_____	_____
15	_____	_____	_____	_____
16	_____	_____	_____	_____
17	_____	_____	_____	_____
18	_____	_____	_____	_____
19	_____	_____	_____	_____
20	_____	_____	_____	_____
21	_____	_____	_____	_____
22	_____	_____	_____	_____
23	_____	_____	_____	_____
24	_____	_____	_____	_____
25	_____	_____	_____	_____

The Last County Award - Cat 3 is awarded for earning 25 LC Awards-Cat 1 or 2. To assist the Custodian, please list the LC1 /2 awards being used on this application. NOTE: The Award # is the Certificate # (Not the Sequence Number). The ST is the State you give out for the Last County. The Award Date is the Date of the Award (Not the date of the Contact)

Transmittal Stub/Mailing Label-LC3 Award

Award # _____ Date _____

To: _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Form LC-3 Rev 10/84

LC-3 Award application form

If I goof and fail to keep the NCS informed, all is not lost; I can still let him know I am active again in a number of ways: work a mobile who is running, so NCS will hear my call; if I can't hear the running mobile, call in for a "mobile recheck:" after the run; or call in between runs with a "mobile info" break and inform NCS I am back on the road.

If I fail to let anyone know I am back, it is not the NCS' fault if I don't get called for several hours. It is my own, and I will take my medicine and not whine or carp about it.

New USA-CA Awards

Norm, WA3RTY, CQ USA-CA custodian, has announced the following USA-CA recipients:

- ✓ 881 Barry Dutcher, KA1CLV, 9-1, 95
- 882 Raleigh Wert, W8QOI, 9-1-95
- 883 Bob Voss, N4CD, 9-11-95
- 884 Steve Wilson, KF7SG, 9-22-95
- 885 Randy Hatt, KN4RI, 9-24-95

New Third Time Around Awards

The Mobile QSL Bureau has announced the newest Third Time Awards:

- 81 KD8HA, George Judy, 8-19-95
- 82 HR1KAS, Kenneth A. See, 8-29-95
- 83 KF0LZ, Dave Wetzel, 9-5-95
- 84 K8OHC, William E. Sempert, 9-19-95
- 85 W0DSY, Randy Woelk, 9-19-95

New Fourth Time Around Award

The B&B Shop has announced the following winner of the Fourth Time Around Award:

- 39 NV6L, Jan McLernon, 9-5-95

New Fifth Time Around Awards

The B&B Shop has announced the following winners of the Fifth Time Around Award:

- 20 Paul Bugen, WA3TUC, 7-30-95
- 21 James Grandinetti, KZ2P, 9-1-95
- 22 Katie Dranchak, N9HRX, 9-1-95

New Bingo Awards

The Mobile QSL Bureau has announced the newest Master County Hunter :

KD8HA, George Judy, 7-26-95 (with apologies from the editor for the delay in publication)
 HR1KAS, Kenneth A. See, 8-29-95
 NC6M, William E. Starten, 9-9-95

Mobile Trips Planned

W0UBT: Trip to 3M Mini. Depart November 1, return November 7. Five states, 45 counties, all on CW (no SSB). Will have 40M. Route is firm. Itinerary available for large SASE.

Counties Needed ...

... for USA-CA

AISP: Banks, Cook, Marion, Pulaski, Schley, Schreven, Webster, Wheeler, Wilkes, Worth (Georgia); Brown, Greene (Illinois); Benton (Indiana); Adair, Adams, Palo Alto (Iowa); Boyle, Hancock, Lee, Wolfe, Woodford (Kentucky); Newaygo, Wexford (Michigan); Big Stone, Mahanomen, Red Lake (Montana); Calhoun, Kemper, Tippah, Walthall (Mississippi); Stone (Missouri).

... for Other Awards

N5AWE: Harrison (Kentucky); Sullivan (Missouri).

W5VRA: Ouray, San Juan (Colorado); St. Francois (Missouri); Bath (Virginia).

Members Speak!

WB9OOG: There has been a standing call by the *Road Runner* editors to share experiences of emergency communications on the nets. All of the submissions I have read so far have shown how good the net is in handling emergencies. Unfortunately, I personally have had a mixed experience.

My wife and I were traveling back to the Washington, D.C., area from St. Louis after Christmas last year. I had two tires replaced on my Explorer in St. Louis. Unfortunately, the mechanic working on our truck failed to follow my instructions to hand-torque the lug nuts on one of the wheels. The next day we were on I-70 west of Indianapolis when the left rear wheel fell off. Here we were, stuck on the shoulder of an Interstate with major mechanical and body damage.

I wasn't worried though ... my radio still worked, and I was sure help was only a call away on the 20M Emergency & County Hunters' Net. I said "break!" The net quieted down immediately. I explained my situation to the net control. The net control then put out a general call for anybody to make a call to the Indiana State Police to help. There was silence! No one would help me when my wife and I were stranded. The net control then suggested that I try the 40M net. Maybe someone would help me there. They then continued to run mobiles.

Yes, I did try the 40M net. Yes, I did get some help there. Unfortunately, due to mistakes made by the Indiana State Police, the tow truck didn't show up for two hours. To make a long story short, we were able to get underway the next day.

As someone who has been very active on the net for the past two years, I still can't believe the treatment I received that day on the 20M net. The net is there for just such occurrences. Less than two months earlier I had reported a serious accident during the Murphreesboro Mini that had resulted in a very quick reaction by the local sheriff. But when I needed help, no one would come to my rescue on 20M.

Everyone involved with the nets should consider why they are there. When an incident occurs, the net should stop whatever it is doing. The net control should then either take care of the situation himself, or, if he cannot help, find someone who will. No other business should take place on the net until the authorities are notified, or the incident otherwise resolved. If a regular county hunter can't get help, what makes any of you think that

other amateurs would feel comfortable seeking help on our net. This is my net as well as yours. If any of you are not prepared to help out during emergencies, I don't want to work you.

According to paragraph 97.1 (a), the first principle of amateur radio mentioned in the regulations, under which we all operate, is the "recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service particularly with respect to providing *emergency communications* (emphasis added). We should remember why we are amateur radio operators and county hunters.

WSOBT: I have received phone calls wondering about my silence this summer. It all began when Betty and I bought a new 34-foot motor home towing a Jeep Cherokee.

It was overwhelming to put a ham rig into it (or the Jeep) so I stored my rig for a year. I hope someone can help me mount an antenna on an all-fiberglass vehicle; where to put a rig 34-feet from batteries; and best yet, convince my XYL that I can CW while driving a 102-inch-wide motor home down the road.

I have transmitted 49 states and 1,000 counties in the past six years and I sure hate to QRT!

KSGE: Each of us will some time or another encounter a crisis in our lives. This crisis is usually monumental to the bearer and has a varied affect on others depending on their association with the involved. In any case, the pain will not be eliminated, but can be eased by actions from others.

I have experienced several things in my life which at the time were thought to be monumental. On July 10, 1995, however, I encountered a crisis which will be the most difficult to overcome. At 2 a.m. I lost my beloved wife, best friend, and co-pilot to cancer. I am thankful that she is no longer suffering, but her passing to a better place certainly has left a void in my life. It is remarkable as to how suddenly a person's life can be turned into turmoil.

I would like to thank our county hunter family friends who were kind enough to call and send sympathy cards. Their thoughtful words of encouragement have surely helped to ease my pain. Hopefully, I will be able to get my life back together again and visit with you on 14.336. I must admit it will be difficult without my co-pilot Jeanette.

W5LLU: I returned recently to county hunting after about a five-year absence. Previously, I was mobile running counties and not thinking about awards. Most of my records were lost.

Now, I'm trying to qualify for the USA-CA award and trying to work all the mobiles. One thing that I notice is that net controls tend to talk rapidly when the mobile is running, slurring both he call and the county, and not using phonetics. This is tough when you have a Spanish or an Indian name.

On the other hand, many mobiles will go through their 10-minute run saying nothing but "QRZ." With the propagation so bad and so much QSB, it would be nice to hear the call and county repeated several times.

NOLDT: I would like to express my appreciation for all the help I had when I made my recent trip in MN, WI and the upper peninsula of MI. Conditions were extremely poor. Without the help of the net controls and many of the county hunters on frequency, I could not have done it. I hear so much negative of what county hunters do not do. However, I found the positive aspect of what they do. A special Thank You to WA7IRD for the many ways she helped me, including the calls she made for me

when I was in some last counties. I hope my trip of 1,700 miles helped many of you. Thanks again.

KIER: Well, Joan and I are back into the traffic, smog, heat, and bugs associated with the "mainland." Let me tell you! Hawaii is better. Clean air, cool breezes, drinks by the pool, warm sand, 80-degree sea water, terrible traffic (but only around Honolulu and only for an hour in the morning and evening) for those still enslaved by work.

I really enjoyed the island of Molokai. It's like Oahu was in the 1950s before the developers hit the place. Fewer than 7,000 people, no traffic lights, no "golden arches" or other junk ... just a nice slow place, nearly deserted beach, well-trained bar tender and a few, very few roads ... one of which happens to reach to the Maui and Kalawao county line. I ran it before dawn, at dawn, just after dawn, mid-day, afternoon, sunset, and even close to midnight which seemed to clean up the demand from EU and VK/ZL. I don't think a single JA county hunter called, but guess they didn't need it. Did you know there is a VK/ZL CH net at 0400z on 14.250? There is a weekly ham breakfast meeting on Oahu and Pat, K7VAY/KH6 was at the meeting just before I flew to Molokai. I think he was the last one to run Kalawao ... certainly the one I worked in 12994, and the only one I've heard ... so we swapped a few stories. Turns out although he's been inactive, he has over 2,500 counties and needed me in Honolulu county ... and he promised to get more active and finish up. I don't know how many I worked but I filled 16 log pages for the whole trip (SSB & CW) and I wasn't getting any takers at the end, so I hope those who needed it were awake!

The Maui/Kalawao county line is at the end of Highway 470, on top a 2,500-foot vertical cliff overlooking the leper colony at Kalaupapa. Joan and I walked down (and UP!) the nearly four-mile former mule path and toured the colony ... now being run as a "historical park" by the National Park Service. A medical treatment for leprosy was found in 1957 (!) so the need for "leper colonies" isolated from the world is gone, but there are approximately 20 people still remaining at Kalaupapa and the state and NPS protect their privacy as long as they live. I heard that one of those 20, a blind Chinese gentleman, is/was a ham. Someone needs to donate a rig, put up an antenna, and get him back on the air. He'd be popular and back in the real world quickly.

I ran Hawaii from the volcano rim at 4,000 feet (no power lines) and Honolulu from both the Koolau mountain pass and the beach. Glad to help! It was great fun.

P.S.: While running the four Hawaii counties I gave out 15 last counties, e.g. LC for third time, LC for second time, sever LC for Bingo, and lots of LC for the first time. I even had a few people ask me to fly over and run Kauai, but I'll leave that county to Clarence, AH6CG, until my next trip to KH6 next summer. Let the demand build up again just in time for the Annual Navy League convention in June 1996.

WA9QNI: Most of us would probably agree the net runs smoother and we get more done, and better, when there is a Net Control Station running a LIST of mobiles and that we need for more of our fixed stations to share that part of our hobby. Those who do not agree may not have run many counties mobile in areas from which it's very hard to be heard, or with a less than ideal mobile antenna, or both.

Let's probe some reasons why more do not help on NCSs. It isn't much fun, it takes some time, it takes less time if we only listen for and help the strong stations or only those in counties we need. Many feel it's impossible for any NCS to please the net. We give them the very devil when they fail to take care of our needs

first and well, And it's not just the fixed stations. Many mobiles (some of whom seldom if ever act as NCS) are short tempered and openly critical of the NCS. We act like we think they intentionally skip over us or don't call us or drop us from the list, or fail to remember that we don't take relays or don't QSY to 40M, etc. Many of us act like we expect NCS to do a perfect job (as we would) of taking care of mobile contacts, passing along info to others, moving mobiles, out to lunch, stopped for gas, etc., and all this with no slips or errors. How many more reasons do we need?

We should try it ourselves more often so we might remember and appreciate what it's like being NCS. If we could have a net monitor with authority to assign penalties on all who complain about or disrupt net activities to four hours NCS duty per week, maybe we would have all the NCSs we need plus smoother nets.

Some could say many stations, fixed and mobile, seem to be trying to run all NCSs away instead of trying to encourage a newer NCS with patience and kinder tones of voice. Think about it, is it his fault that the net went into open session, no one bothered to copy the list so we got dropped from the list when this NCS offered his help by starting a new list. Why blame this new NCS?

The more we think about it, maybe we are lucky to still have any NCSs left at all, is the way we treat them. Even our most experienced NCSs have trouble when they are expected to remember how each station on net would like to be treated regarding relays, phonetics, checking in, mobile contacts, etc., in so many different way.

Summary: Looks to me like that if we want more and better Net Control Stations who please more of us, we better start working harder at being better fixed and mobile stations and to look for and do everything we can to please THEM in every way we can every time we can. Make sense to you??? I'm gonna try it starting today. Care to join me?

W0AYL: We all have heard from Gene, N4ANV, telling about how he, his wife, and Pat, N4UGH, got together months before a convention to make a quilt for which to sell chances to help pay convention expenses. The question that enters my mind is "Do you know how much time and hard work goes into making one?"

Well, I will give you a crash lesson.

1. A pattern has to be selected. This is hard because we have hundreds to select from.

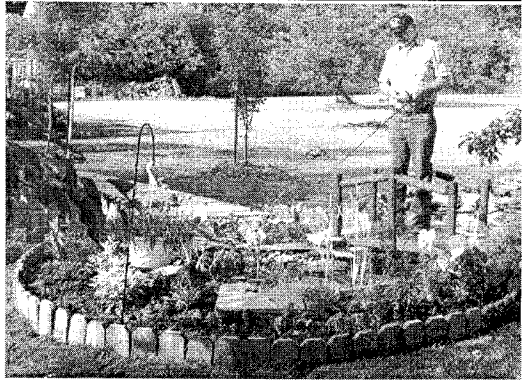
2. You must select fabric and match color that will bring out the beauty of the quilt.

3. The pattern must be cut precisely so when you cut the fabric each piece will be exactly the same, allowing 1/4-inch for seams.

4. Piecing comes next. You either sew two pieces together by machine or by hand, using very small stitches. This has to be organized where you sew long strips. The seams are pressed flat. These pieces are pinned with other pieces that are put together before. This process is continued until the entire quilt is pieced together.

5. Now you use a solid color backing and a batting that is placed between the sewn pieces and the backing.

6. Only now do you place the quilt onto a quilting frame. This is done by using pins to attach the outer edge of the quilt to a band of material that is firmly attached to the quilt frame. The complete quilt is then stretched out in all directions and clamped. The quilt is rolled onto the frame with about three feet "open" for



A big fish(er)man in a small pond. Joe, W5UJO, MARAC president, tried his luck during the pre-convention picnic at the home of June & Vern Beard on July 5.

work. This allows two or three people to work at one time. Quilting is an art unto itself. A lot of practice is required to use the special quilting needles. Stitching is slow and meticulous.

7. When the stitching is completed, the quilt is finished off with a border or blind stitching. Then all basting threads are removed. And, you are done.

(EDITOR: how does all of this compare to homebrewing your own equipment? I sort of think the homebrewing may be easier.)

Ford F-150 Noise Problems by Dave Ertel, KJ8V

I want to open by thanking Jim, KZ2P, and Gene, N4ANV, for putting me onto some great problem solvers at Ford: Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ, at (313) 323-2014 and Steve Sageman, WQ8T, (313) 323-9511. Thanks to all above, my noise problems have been solved.

I do not have fuel pump problems, for I had my local Ford dealer install the fuel pump filters that Jim discussed in his article. I thought I had a severe ignition noise problem. After discussing this with Pat Quinn, he suggested the following:

1. Place a drop of Silicone Dielectric Compound (NAPA ECHLIN ML-3) on each terminal end of your spark plug wires and put a drop on the rotor button to suppress ignition noise. I did this and I still had an S-9 noise level on 20M only.

2. If this fails to solve the problem, contact Steve Sageman. I still had my problem, so I called Steve. When I told Steve the symptoms of my problem, he immediately knew what was wrong. I had a bad engine control module, specifically the section that controls the automatic transmission. The portion of this module that controls the transmission emits a lot of noise when the transmission is under a light load due to firing a pulse to lock up the torque converter at these light loads. Steve told me that they had this problem with the '91 and '92 Ford Taurus, but thought they had it fixed. He stated that this was the first time he had ever heard of this problem with any Ford trucks. The only fix for this problem is a new engine control module. Luckily my vehicle is still under warranty.

To find out if you have a similar problem, simply tune to a

nice quiet spot on 20M, maybe before the band opens, drive at a constant speed and listen to the noise level. If it varies when you let off or depress the accelerator, then chances are you have the same problem that I have experienced. You may also check the other bands you use.

I can happily say that my problem has been fixed. Steve and Pat went out of their way to help, even going as far as arranging the repair at my dealer, writing a letter to the local dealer explaining in detail the problem and fix and shipping to my dealer a new control module to install on my truck. If I can be of any help, just give me a call.

Twenty-Five Years Ago by Steve, WN7J

The October 1970 meeting was held at the house of WØYLN (W5TQE) and attended by five members of MARAC. The treasurer's report on the first six months of operation of the club showed income of \$917.50, expenses of \$681.66, and balance of \$235.94, which fortunately agreed with the bank statement. Non-profit tax exemption forms had been received and were being completed.

WAØWOB gave a report on his visits to the western states, during which he met several MARAC members. Based on this input, it was decided to proceed with ideas for the 3,079 Last County award. Comments from members were requested on an award for last county in a state, the problem of deciding whether this should be the last county worked or the last county confirmed being at issue.

WØLYN was concerned that the flow of material for the newsletter was falling off. (I can report that at least 25 more years' input has been received.)

The president's letter stated the need to encourage DX stations to become MARAC members. This was in order that they can receive the newsletter in a timely manner, including upcoming trip information. The agenda for the ICHN Kansas City 1971 convention was firming up. Convention dates were July 2-4, with additional activities on the first and fifth.

Friday — first MARAC board meeting followed by an ICHN meeting followed by a general MARAC meeting.

Saturday — noise suppression in mobiles followed by a question/answer session with a panel of experts. Annual MARAC meeting. Banquet.

Sunday — second MARAC board meeting.

YLs and harmonics were to be catered for by professional sitters and tours. Approximately \$1,000 was expected to be given away in prizes, including the first prize Tempo 1 transceiver and power supply. (Anyone able to describe a Tempo 1?)

W2GT reported the latest USA-CA members were No. 40, WA4FGX (N4GLV); No. 41, WA4YQC; No. 42, WAØSHE; No. 43, W4KA; and, No. 44, K8YGU/WA7PAB (W7KBC). Quite a busy month.

The editor's letter reported on the West Memphis, AR, mini of October 17-18. There were 18 attendees who managed to keep the hospitality room going until the wee hours. W9SOM made a pitch for the 1972 convention in Peoria, IL. Input was requested from any other interested host sites to determine if an election would be needed at KC71. Net operation were discussed (!). VE2CBY offered assistance for anyone wanting to operate in Canada. This was the first issue of the newsletter containing address updates.

Members' letters included those of appreciation for assistance, needed lists, and an offer to be a QSL manager. Also, there

is a letter from GW3NWV, who expressed his frustration at working some counties five times, but as yet no card, and also a plea for net controls and mobiles to announce the county and state at the beginning, end, and during a run. His pet difficulty is with net controls who announce "go ahead and run your county."

Trips were announced covering parts of FL, AL, LA, NH, VT, KS, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV, WI, and TX. Finally, new members were listed, the highest membership number being R-133.

From the Acting Secretary

If your mailing label indicates 199511 or 199512, it is time to renew. Dues with first class mailing of the Newsletter are \$19/yr. Dues with third class mailing of the Newsletter are \$16/yr. Note that third class mailing is available within the United States only. Dues with the Newsletter mailed Air Mail to all continents other than North America are \$30/yr. Multiple year renewals and business size SASE's with renewals are also very much appreciated. Please make your check or money order payable to MARAC, Inc., and mail to the Acting Secretary, Fred Crawford, AB5SL, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City TX 78148-2651.

NEW MARAC Information Packet

Thanks to everyone for getting the word out to potential new members and interested County Hunters that a County Hunting Information Packet is available. The Information Packet has been upgraded, July 1995, combining the original MARAC Information package and the Net Operating Guidelines. The package answers questions about Net frequencies, Computer Logging, MRC's and QSLing, etc. Send your request with a business size envelope with \$0.55 postage to: MARAC, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City TX 78148-2651.

Europeans can get the Packet from Eddie Scholes, G4KHG.

ARRL Memberships

Thank our MARAC members who have demonstrated their support of MARAC by submitting their ARRL memberships through the MARAC Secretary.

The last day of the month is my cut-off day for processing ARRL renewals. For example, if your ARRL membership expires the last day of April 1995, I must have your application before the last day of March 1995. We do not want anyone to miss a copy of QST, because of their support of MARAC.

For each ARRL Regular or Senior Membership, MARAC receives a \$2 rebate, (\$5 for a new ARRL membership). Please mail your check or money order payable to MARAC, Inc., for your ARRL dues and the ARRL membership application to: MARAC, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City TX 78148-2651.

Membership Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly general membership meeting of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC), a Kansas Nonstock Corporation, was held, beginning at 2:40 p.m., September 10, 1995, at the home of Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, Route 1, Denison, TX.

Joe Parsons, W5UJO, President, presided as chairman of the meeting.

The following directors were present: Joe Parsons, W5UJO; Mike Carver, KG5UZ; Cheryl Mohon, KJ5PQ; Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS; Diane Landreth, K1STV; Bill Peale, W5MW; and Fred Crawford, AB5SL, acting secretary. Others present: none.

The minutes of the meeting of August 6, 1995, were read. Corrections to the Minutes were noted by W5UJO:

The first line of the minutes should read: "The regular monthly general membership meeting..."

A motion to accept the minutes as amended and read was made by Bill Peale, W5MW, and seconded by Diane Landreth, K1STV. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Old Business

A. Treasurer's Report (see below): The treasurer's report was made by Diane Landreth, K1STV.

1. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of obtaining a State of Texas tax exemption number and a postal "non-profit organization" account.

2. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Jerry Weaver, WD5JGS, and seconded by Bill Peale, W5MW. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

B. National Convention 1955 Financial Report. An exceptional report was submitted and reviewed. The report (see below) contained details and all pertinent information and was the best report submitted to date.

A special thanks for Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P, and Paul Scipione, AA2AV, for their diligence and for the outstanding report.

C. Procedural clarification. Joe Parsons, W5UJO, clarified the procedures to be used on "important issues" that are presented at the meetings of MARAC.

1. Recognized that a procedural error was made during the last meeting that included a recommendation for approval on the proposal to eliminate confirmation for the Second Time Award.

2. Since there are no "proxies" on file from the Area Directors, copies of important issues will be mailed to the Area Directors and appropriate committee(s) for reply by the next meeting.

New Business

A. Current bills consisting of printing, secretary expenses, Legal Printing, and return of excess funds received to cover an insufficient funds check. Motion made and seconded to pay current bills was made, seconded, and approved.

B. Proposal by Van N. Peterson to replace the existing computer system used by the MARAC Awards Chairman. The proposal will be sent to the Area Directors for comment and recommendations.

C. Request for waiver, Article 6, Section 10, has been submitted by KA9ZRW, and will be sent to Area Directors for comment and recommendation.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m., October 15, 1995, at the home of Mike Carver, KG5UZ, and Cheryl Mohon, KJ5PQ, 2013 Eagle Nest Pass, Lewisville, TX. For any additional information, please contact, AB5SL, MARAC Acting Secretary.

There was no further business to come before the meeting. A motion by Diane Landreth, K1STV, and second by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, to adjourn the meeting was made and a unanimous vote resulted. The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

MARAC Financial Report

Diane Landreth, K1STV

Checking Account as of August 1, 1995 88,415.53

Income:

ARRL Memberships	81.00
Awards	1,353.50
Dues	655.00
Dues	375.00
Mini Convention	69.00

TOTAL 2,533.50

Expenses:

B&B Shop (Annual)	1,009.51
Albert Wholers Insur. Cap. EQ	55.93
Bob Dyson (July & August)	54.40
Don Magers	64.90
ARRL Memberships	75.00
Joe Parsons	32.00
Legal Print	744.38
Postage 340.27	
Print 404.21	

TOTAL 2,036.12

Checking Account as of July 31, 1995 8,912.91

Savings Account as of August 1, 1995 22,730.37

No change

Savings Account as of July 31, 1995 22,730.37

MARAC 95 (convention)

Treasurer's Report

Income:

Badges	700.00
Banquet	3,732.00
Bison Baseball/Navy Park trip	1,550.00
Bus trips (shopping malls)	248.00
Hospitality room	874.08
MARAC seed money	1,000.00
Old Fort Niagara/Niagara Falls trip	1,314.00
Photographs	798.00
Prize ticket sales	1,416.00
Registration fees	1,450.00

Total 13,082.08

Expenses:

Badges	700.00
Banquet	2,739.39
Bison Baseball/Navy Park trip	1,124.50
Bus transportation	2,467.00
Holiday Inn	25.10
Hospitality Room	848.74
MARAC seed money	1,000.00
Old Fort Niagara/Niagara Falls trip	285.00
Photographs	798.00

10 / The County Line Road Runner

Prizes	2,584.96
Registration expense	133.69
Return convention	175.70
Telephone expense	200.00
TOTAL	31,082.08

Address Changes, New Members

R-177 KC7OD George Smith, 327 31st Ave. South, Great Falls, MT 54905-7304. =Cascade
 R-1294 KC7OA Shirley Smith, 327 31st Ave. South, Great Falls, MT 54905-7304. =Cascade
 R-2519 AJ3X George E. Baker, 20338 McMullen Highway, SW, Rawlins, MD 21557-9802. =Allegany
 R2581 AB5SL Fred L. Crawford, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City, TX 78148-2561. =Bexar
 R-2593 KGØAY A.A. "Mandy" Roberts, 3153 263rd St. West, Northfield, MN 55057. =Rice

New Members

R-2697 KA4BHL Clarence E. Crouch, 232 Laurel St., Morristown, TN 37813-1810. =Hamblen.
 R-2698 NØOSS, Charles "Charlie" Cheek, M.D., 14170 Highway BB, Rocheport, MO 65279-9518. =Boone
 R-2699 KB5GEO Scott Travis, P.O. Box 1009, Brownsboro, TX 75796. =Henderson.
 R-2700 AA9PA Earl A. Boysen, 19712 Kishwaukee Rd., Marengo, IL 60152. =McHenry.

**A Taste of History
by Herb, WB9GBH**

All county hunters who plan to attend the Murphreesboro, TN, mini next month definitely should make plans to attend the annual Ms. Mary Bo-Bo's Boarding House dinner Friday, November 3, at Lynchburg.

We meet in the hotel lobby at 11 a.m., drive in caravan, and arrive at approximately 12:45 p.m. Everyone will be seated promptly at 1 p.m.

This year the cost of the scrumptious meal is \$10.25 per person. If you want to reserve one or more of the 66 seats available, you must send me a *check or money* order before Saturday, October 21, 1995. If the reservation is not paid for by that date, I will release it for someone else.

Should you be interested, please contact WB9GBH on 14.336, by letter to 5489 W. Warren St., Silver Lake, IN 46982, or call (219) 566-2739.

**Arizona '96
by Steve, WN7J**

Preparations continue for the 1996 MARAC Convention in Arizona. We are beginning to fill out an agenda of events and it looks like we will have something happening on each day. At this time, if anyone has any county-hunting related topic they would like to present or discuss, we would like to offer them the opportunity to be added to the program. Simply drop a line to PO Box 87273, Phoenix, AZ 85080-7273, or send me e-mail at parishes@primenet.com with some detail on the topic and any

time constraints and we'll attempt to fit you in.

Also, we'll be mailing out a questionnaire to see what people are interested in, and need during the convention, and we'll tailor the events and facilities to expected demand. This should appear within the next month.

As promised last month, here is some background Arizona information. I am open to suggestions for areas of interest. Please contact me as noted above.

Arizona became the 48th state on February 14th, 1912. Despite many of the rivers being too new to contain water, it has a long history. It includes the town of Oraibi which has been continuously inhabited since 1050 AD, and (Fort) Tucson which was founded in 1776. In terms of European settlement, the Franciscan priest Marcos de Niza first entered the state in 1539, and Hernando de Alarcon was the first European to take advantage of the Colorado river recreational facilities in 1540.

It is the sixth largest state, being roughly 395 miles from north to south and 340 miles from east to west, and has a population of between 3 and 4 million. Most of the population lives in either the Phoenix area (55 percent), or Tucson (20 percent).

Altitude varies from 12,633 feet at Mount Humphreys to 70 feet along the Colorado River near Yuma. Despite the reputation for high temperatures, I nearly froze to death in August at the 12,000-foot level, there was still snow on the shaded sides of the peaks. Much of the state is National Forest, mainly because the government didn't want to create a National Desert Service.

Before 1866 Arizona was bigger than it is today. If you project the Arizona-Utah border in a straight line across Nevada until it hits the present Nevada-California border, the area south of the line used to be Pah-Ute county, Arizona. This was lost in 1866 when congress, needing a site for Las Vegas, lopped it off. There are a lot more tales like that in Arizona, part fact, part fantasy. Come and sample them, the scenery, the hospitality, and the camaraderie in Arizona '96.

Future Events

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

November 2-4. Southeast District Mini, Murphreesboro, TN. Contact KM4W.
 April 11-13, 1996, Great Lakes District Mini, Holland, MI. Contact N8EMV.
 July 1-5, 1996, MARAC National Convention, Phoenix, AZ. Contact WØOWY.
 1997 MARAC National Convention, Orlando, FL. Contact KN4JR.
 1998 MARAC National Convention, San Antonio, TX. Contact WB4FBS.

**The Last Word
by KB3WN**

Please do not send address change information to me. That information needs to be sent to the Acting Secretary, Fred Crawford, AB5SL, P.O. Box 2561, Universal City, TX 78148-2561. Those that do come to me must be forwarded, often causing a delay in publication. The (acting) secretary is the last word for such information, and from whom I get that which appears here.

MARAC SOUTHEAST DISTRICT MINI

- ANNOUNCING: The 1995 Annual 3M MARAC Southeast District Mini at Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- DATES: November 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Hospitality area open at noon Thursday November 2nd.
- LOCATION: Holiday Inn, 2227 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129
- DIRECTIONS: I-24 and Tennessee Hiway #96. On I-24 Exit #78 from Chattanooga and #78B from Nashville.
- ROOM RATE: All rooms \$48.00/Night plus Tax. A block of 100 rooms will be held until October 10th. After this same rates if rooms available.
- RESERVATION: Tel. (615) 896-2240. Mention Ham Radio Convention for rates. (HAM) is three letters to access Computer.
- ACTIVITIES: Golf Courses nearby. Shopping Centers, Fast Food Restaurants nearby. Nashville, Tn is 30 miles North, Shopping, Grand Old Opry, etc. Make own reservations. Contact Herb Morgan, WD9GBH for reservations to Mrs. Bobo's Restaurant for Friday Noon Dinner at Lynchburg, Tn, Home of Jack Daniel's Distillery.
- PRIZES: All Prize Donations will be appreciated.
- DINNER: Saturday Night Dinner, Buffet Style, \$16.00/Person, Tax and Tip Included. Buffet includes 2 Meats, Vegetables, Salad, Dessert and Drink.
- REGIS- \$12.00 for OM/YL or \$9.00 Single. Registration includes
TRATION: Name Tag, Group Photo and Drawing for any prize both YL & OM.
- COMPLETE FORM BELOW AND SEND WITH REGISTRATION FEE AND COST OF DINNER TO:

William E. Bell KM4W
99 Smoke Rise Circle
Manchester, TN 37355-5053
Tel. (615) 728-7379

1995 SOUTHEAST MINI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____	CALL _____	USA-CA _____
SPOUSE _____	CALL _____	USA-CA _____
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
REGISTRATION FEE.....		
BANQUET..._(#) AT \$16.00.....		
TOTAL ENCLOSED.....		