

COUNTY LINE ROAD RUNNER

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An ARRL Affiliated Club

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Awards Committee

Listed by area of representation

Great Lakes: Paula Batema, N8EMV;
North Central: Les Springmire, W9GPC;
North East: John Butler, WB2NFB;
Pacific: Gene Eggebraten, W7GVF
South Central: Joyce Booth, WB9NUL;
South East: Jim Thomas, KB4XK;
DX: Carl Durnavich, KF9FU;
At large members: Pete Peterson, K4QFK, and Joe Parsons,
W5UJO.

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Deadline for next Newsletter:

January 20, 1996

Awards Committee Report

By Carl, KF9FU

Second Time All Counties confirmed/unconfirmed proposal results: two for, two against, one abstained. Correspondence from members showed 17 against and 13 for passage. The committee recommends a membership ballot vote to determine the outcome of this issue.

The proposal to terminate minimum signal report requirements to constitute a valid MARAC contact received a five-to-zero vote to terminate. Member's correspondence had five to terminate and three against. The committee recommends termination.

Not responding to these issues were the following MARAC districts: Southeast, Northeast, and Pacific. The Board will act on these issues at the January meeting. The committee rests with no new proposals on the table.

Net Operating Tips

By Mitch, W4RKY

We occasionally have interference on our net from whistlers or similar characters looking for attention. Having been on the net almost daily over a long period of time, I have learned that in most cases the interferers will move on in a relatively short time if totally ignored. If we make no response to their activities, they have no way of knowing whether they are being heard or are simply broadcasting to dead air. The worst approach seems to be to refer to them as some form of low-life and thereby get into a shouting match with them, which then results in the frequency being unusable for net activities for several minutes.

If the intentional interference persists for an extended period, or the person is using particularly objectionable profanity, when I am NCS I will usually make some form of announcement that "the FCC monitoring service has been called and they are recording the activities on this frequency for voice-print analysis, so all net members please be careful of the language you use." Such an announcement will often convince the interferer to cease and desist.

New Second Time Around Awards

Pete, K4QFK, MARAC Awards Chairman, announced the latest Second Time Around Awards:

#193 Earl Gregg, N5AWE, 11/30/95
#194 Fred Seifert, W5FS, 12/20/95

New Fourth Time Around Award

The B&B Shop announced the latest Fourth Time Award:

#43 William A. Grew, W69A, 11/28/95

Trip Planned, with a Video Twist

N4ANV: As most of you know by now, I retired the last of October after 29 years of federal service with the Department of Defense. Since then I have been planning for my first long trip with a lot of anticipation. It will start the last week of February and we will return home after the Phoenix Convention. What am I

going to do and where am I going to go? Those are the reasons for this article.

First, I will tell you where I am going. My wife Pat (KC4TBS) and I will be leaving for the Texas Mini at Texahoma, OK, about the last week in February. For the first week we will run counties between NC and OK with no specific route. Basically, we will go anywhere we want to go. We will spend the rest of March in TX and OK, county hunting and having fun. Around the first of April we will proceed west, and take in much of New Mexico, moving on to Arizona, spending a couple of days in Phoenix. From Phoenix we will go to San Diego and plan to be there around April 15. We will travel up the West Coast all the way to Victoria, BC. We plan on spending a little time in Seattle around the middle of May, and then move on to Idaho in late May. In June we plan to move through Montana, down through Yellowstone, Teton, Zion, and to Las Vegas. We will make it to the Grand Canyon the last week of June. We plan to be at Phoenix on June 30 for the annual convention, after which we will return home.

Second. Now why did I tell you all that. Well, it's because of what I am going to do. I have already started with my project, and that is to produce a current video about county hunting. It was started with the Murphreesboro Mini, and will go through the National Convention. While traveling I will visit all who invite me to stop by, and this will all be used to compile the video about county hunting. If you want to be sure that I come by your place, drop me a card and I will do my best to get by each invitation. If you are not sure about time and availability, don't worry—we are not sure of that either. I will use video of your station, your antennas, you and your spouse, the visit, or any other thing that would be of interest to county hunting.

Pat and I have really been looking forward to this for a while now and we look forward to meeting our county hunting friends all across the country. We will plan a couple of other trips to the Midwest and the Northeast before completing the video, so watch for these.

...and Another Trip

AISP: There is a chance that I will again run all the counties in Arkansas in mid/late January. If you are down to a few, drop me a line with your wants. All depends on the weather and other commitments. I again will have 20M and 40M, SSB/CW.

Silent Key

We are saddened to report the passing of Gus Morales, OA4ED, R-2650, on October 3, 1995.

Counties Needed ...

WU4S: (for Bingo) Mineral, Sedgwick (Colorado); Escambia (Florida); Brooks, Evans, Long (Georgia); Graham, Ottawa (Kansas); West Feliciana (Louisiana); Renville (Minnesota); Clay, Winston (Mississippi); Stoddard, Stone (Missouri); Box, Butte (Nebraska); Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Monmouth, Salem (New Jersey); Stark (Ohio); Craig (Oklahoma); Lake, Minnehaha, Roberts (South Dakota); Jackson (Tennessee). Call collect 910-320-2938.

WS3F (for Bingo) Gilpin, Teller (Colorado); Effingham, Lamar, Telfair (Georgia); Kalawao (Hawaii); Lincoln (Idaho); Scott (Illinois); Chisago (Minnesota); Benton (Missouri); Boyd,

Brown, Gosper (Nebraska); Mercer, Salem (New Jersey); Fulton, Rensselaer, Sullivan (New York); Pontotoc (Oklahoma); Hood River, Tillamook (Oregon); Karnes, Mitchell, Wilson (Texas); Sublette (Wyoming).

PS5YL: (for Second Time) Heard (Georgia); Crawford, Hamilton, Lawrence (Illinois); Whitley (Indiana); Carrol (Iowa); Bourbon, Gerrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Johnson, Ohio, Taylor (Kentucky); Alpena (Michigan); Marion (Mississippi); Chariton, Caldwell, Saint Francois (Missouri); Frontier (Nebraska); Eau Claire, Pepin, Taylor (Wisconsin).

W5VD (for Third Time): Ray (Missouri); Lincoln (North Carolina); Matagorda (Texas).

Members Speak!

NB6A: Thanks to a lot of people, I now have USA-CA 888. It seems a long time since K4MPP gave WB6ERF Caldwell, KY, on December 10, 1969. I want to thank everyone who sent QSL cards with their MRCS. Accumulating counties was second in importance to giving them out—that what I enjoyed. I really didn't intend to finish until one of my friends urged me to be serious.

It suddenly became exciting to me to have a number. Lots of special friends helped, and each of you know I appreciate what you have done. Gene, N4ANV, and the two Pats drove to Brunswick, NC, to give me my last county. It was indeed a wonderful moment. I began to work counties for the second time the second day after I received 888. I hope it won't take as long to do it the next time. I am still giving out counties (I was the first to give out 50 states mobile), and I am hoping as you send your MRCS, you will send me your QSL for your county if you worked me after October 27, 1995. I need then ALL, and I use mobile or fixed. Thanks again, my dear friends. 88 from 888.

WA9QNI: What, if anything, should we do about relays? How do you feel about the time taken on our nets for relays? We already know that feelings range all the way from "no relays" to "more relays with no time limits." Your individual feeling probably depends of whether most of your time on net is as a station still working for your first time around (USA-CA award), one who already has your "number but now working for other awards, a mobiler, a net control or a combination of any or all those hats.

Probably none of us know how many, but most probably feel that too much time is spent on relays. I still need 184 to finish YLs, 183 for fifth time and 304 for Stars and I know it may not be possible to finish them without relays. Even so, I wouldn't cry one tear if all relays stopped today. But I did have many relays when working for USA-CA and I doubt that many, if any others got their number without relays. So it wouldn't seem fair to me to just stop all relays completely for those who are still working for their "number." (Zero relays might be acceptable under conditions mentioned in Part 3 below).

Let me briefly describe three ideas of mine that could save a lot of relay time. Perhaps you will have more and better ideas or thoughts about these which you will make known. I believe Parts 1 and 2 could be implemented any day by each of us as individuals and without any consent or approval from any group of individuals but Part 3 would need more discussion, support and cooperation from something like a majority of the active net participants who express themselves on this issue. That could be worked on later if there is enough interest expressed.

Part 1: Continue offering relays to all who ask for them but limit the time. Allow one try, plus one (or maybe two at most) repeats (agains) by each station; *except* that the relay attempt would end the first time either station makes a mistake in acknowledging the report sent him by the other station. The station helping with relays would just announce, "no contact" and move on the next station waiting for a relay. This would save time by eliminating six or more attempts and reduce the guessing to one incorrect guess. Any net control or any mobile or any station needing relays could implement this idea for its session or run or for their relay attempt.

Part 2: If enough of us who already have our USA-CA number would volunteer to join those who have already stopped using relays, we could save a lot more time. Maybe this is one of those "I will if you will" matters, so lets stick my neck out first. I hereby promise that if 200 or more USA-CA holders (including those who have already stopped using relays) will, in writing, agree to join me, I will stop asking for and stop accepting any relays effective on the day I learn that the list has reached 200. Only reason I specify "in writing" is that I know of at least one rascal in our number that would boot-leg volunteer 200 of you good guys and laugh at me holding the bag, hi hi! We certainly wouldn't limit the number to I would guess that most others would join with us if we can build the number to 201.

Part 3: Ultimately we might get most all county hunters to agree to stop using relays if we made the cut-off-date for relays at some future date and extend "grandfather" rights to all who are already actively working for the first time around (USA-CA number). This would require support and consent from at least a majority of us. If there is enough interest in this possibility, details could be worked on later. For illustration purposes only, lets just say we decided on a cut-off-date of June 30, 1996. This would mean, first of all, that new county hunters who come on board on or after July 1, 1996, would not be entitled to any relays. Relays would still be available to those who ask for them and do not have a USA-CA number but were actively working toward it prior to the cut-off-date. These grandfather rights could run on for as long as it takes them to finish, or more practical to set some reasonable time limit to finish up, reasonable being maybe five years or so after the cut-off-date. We might have to require MARAC membership of those who want to keep grandfather rights so that their membership number would help us identify who is and who is not eligible.

Now, I solicit your feedback on this subject. Written response preferred (required USA-CA holders on PART 2) so we can better evaluate and confirm them when or if necessary. Whether for or against or in addition to my ideas, yours are far more important. Letters, cards or e-mail are fine.

Address response to: Jack True, Rt 2, Box 50051, Alamo, TX 78516, or from within CompuServe: 76311,2127 or via internet: 76311.2127@compuserve.com

Twenty-Five Years Ago by Steve, WN7J

The January 1971 regular MARAC meeting was held at the home of WØYLN with six members present. Topics discussed where the need for budgeting, the DX award, and the guidelines for Net Control stations. Club membership stood at 161.

There was a long letter from the president, who had just completed 15,000 miles traveling in the last four months. He thanked New York hams who held a mini while he was there with 14 attendees.

Because the club and its activities had grown in size since its inception, he also discussed the topic of whether national conventions should be club activities or individual responsibilities. While an individual may set up a basic get-together such as a simple dinner on a Saturday night, the Kansas City group had put in much more effort to make KC71 more fun for those attending. He solicited input on whether the club should act as a sponsor for the larger conventions, pointing out that it adds credibility when negotiating with various vendors such as hotels and caterers. He asked people to be prepared to discuss this topic at KC71.

In the letter from the editor, the result of voting on newsletter availability was that the newsletter would be available to members only, and that non-members who currently get the newsletter would still receive it until their subscriptions expired. He asked if there was anyone in the club with the capability and the inclination to inscribe club plaques and trophies.

Also, if a member was down to 25 counties or less and they requested, their list would be published in the newsletter, and, if space permitted, any needed list would be printed.

The editor had also received a letter from a 75-year-old SWL in England, Harold Lodge. He had logged five stations on the 3.930 Mhz net at 0600 on December 3, 1970, good conditions.

New USA-CA numbers awarded were #49 to W5ULN and #50 to K1WQU.

A draft Net Control Operator aid was attached to the newsletter for comments. The recipient of my newsletter must have detached and commented on his so I cannot report on its contents.

A list of the current awards was attached, which included the Associate Award, M-50-M, UL mobile, and the MARAC DX Mobile Award. To get an award you needed only certified log data. All the awards except the DX Award, which was still in preparation, were being issued.

Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly general membership meeting of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC), a Kansas Nonstock Corporation, was held, beginning at 2:21 p.m. December 10, 1995, at the home of Bill Peale, W5MW, 13432 Emeline St., Dallas, TX 75234.

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

The following officers present: Joe Parsons, W5UJO, President; Diane Landreth, K15TV, Treasurer. Also attending were directors Mike Carver, KG5UV; Cheryl Mohon, KJ5PQ; Bill Peale, W5MW. Guest attending was K5BDX, Don Simmonds, Ft. Worth, TX. Don is also a member of MARAC. Thanks, Don, for attending.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and motion made by Diane Landreth, K15TV, and seconded by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, to accept the minutes as read. Motion Carried.

Old Business

Financial report was presented by our Treasurer, Diane Landreth, K15TV, for the month of November 1995. After the discussion of the treasurer's report, motion made by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, and seconded by Bill Peale, W5MW, to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

New Business

A letter from Van Peterson, K4QFK, our Awards Chairman,

asking permission to retire the old computer, printer, and typewriter, and replace the same with new equipment. After discussion with the district directors and board to replace the equipment, the votes carried 100 percent, therefore the board is authorizing our awards chairman to purchase the new equipment. We are holding in Dallas, and anyone interested please contact Joe Parsons, W5UJO, for the old equipment.

A letter from AD4IA, Randy, requesting waiver, Article 6, Section 10, of the constitution. A form is being sent to Randy.

After discussion with the board and district directors, Dan Magers KE5WL, has been re-instated to handle membership dues, ARRL dues, and information packet. Don Magers' new title will be called membership chairman. We now have a new secretary to handle other matters of secretary duties. This person will be announced at the next general membership meeting in January.

There was no further business to come before the meeting. A motion was made by Diane Landreth, and seconded by Mike Carver, KG5UZ, to adjourn. The next regular general membership meeting will be held at the home of Joe Parsons, W5UJO, 1639 Evergreen Dr., Mesquite, TX January 7, 1996, at 2 p.m.

Financial Report October 1995

Checking Account as of October 1, 1995 9,951.37

Income:	
Fred Crawford (dues)	2,726.00
ARRL	56.00
Pete Peterson (awards)	913.00
Total	3,695.00

Expenses:	
Legal Print	749.71
Bob Dyson	25.06
B&B Shop	38.00
ARRL	96.00
Fairmont Awards	130.25
Steve Bateman Overpayment	22.00
Total	1,061.02

Checking Account as of October 31, 1995 12,585.33

Savings Account as of October 1, 1995 22,730.17

Interest 155.83

Savings Account as of October 31, 1995 22,886.00

November 1995

Checking Account as of November 1, 1995 12,585.33

Income:	
Fred Crawford (dues)	412.00
Fred Crawford (ARRL)	31.00
Peter Peterson (awards)	551.00
Total	994.00

Expenses:	
Bob Dyson (Sept. & Oct.)	53.48
Fairmont Awards	1,180.50
Don Magers	10.94

ARRL	29.00
Fred Crawford (Oct.)	86.73
Diane Landreth	28.83
Legal Print (2 months)	1,110.09
(Post, 519.69; Print, 590.50)	
Total	2,499.57
Checking Account as of November 30, 1995	11,079.76
Savings Account as of November 1, 1995	22,886.00
No change	
Savings Account as of November 30, 1995	22,886.00

ARIZONA '96 by Steve, WN7J

Well, here we are in 1996, the year of THE convention, Arizona '96. By now you should all have your 1996 calendars in which the first week of July should be marked "Arizona '96." Also, in that long list of resolutions should be "attend Arizona '96," which gives you one New Year's resolution which should be easy to achieve.

The convention QSL card offer has now expired, but we are still accepting advance money (P.O. Box 87273, Phoenix, AZ 85080-7273) payable to John Mees. The hotel (602-964-7000) is still accepting reservations, quote the code "HAMM" to get the \$49 room rate. Also, any prize donations will be greatly appreciated.

By this time you should have received a survey, where we have listed possible events and services for the convention. If you are planning on attending, please fill out and return the survey so we can tailor the convention to your needs. Preliminary registration information is being assembled, and a package should be ready for distribution in early February.

Last month we listed the sights of Flagstaff, and have pretty well covered the Northwest corner of the states. The Northeast corner of Arizona is largely high plateau reservations, containing the Navajo nation, and the Hopi.

Coming into the state on I-40, turn right on 191 to visit Canyon de Chelly (pronounced "de Shea" to make the Mets supporters feel at home). This is a mixture of geology and archaeology, with hundreds of Indian ruins dating between 1100 and 1300 set in a complex of canyons, the sandstone walls of which can rise 1,000 feet. The north and south rims of the canyon offer overlooks of many of the ruins, and there is a one-mile trail from the White House overlook down to the ruin. This is rated as easy with a round trip time of two hours, but I have not taken it, so caveat emptor. The Navajo operate drive tours for a close-up view of the ruins, or if you own a four-wheel drive mobile home, you can hire an Indian guide. There also are ranger guided tours.

At the junction of 191 and 264 lies the Hubbell trading post, which is a National Historic Site dating back to the 1870s. It was set up by John Lorenzo Hubbell and there are ranger tours of the Hubbell home containing many Navajo works of art.

Returning to I-40 and continuing toward Flagstaff, the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest are well worth a visit. Driving through them comprises a loop which returns to I-40. Entering from the east, you start at the Painted Desert, known for the colors of its arid landscape. There are many viewpoints, best near dawn or dusk, when the colors are most pronounced. Continuing through the Petrified Forest, there are several easy hikes on relatively flat paved walks for a close-up view of the emerging

trees, some of which are 100 feet long laying on the ground. One of the hikes (at Blue Mesa) involves a little climbing, but it is easy to spot as the steps are at the beginning. The trees in the park date from the Triassic Period, the beginning of the age of dinosaurs. Recently animal fossils of amphibians and reptiles were discovered along with the trees and there are some good examples at the visitor center at the west end of the park. Looking to the south from the park, you should be able to see the ski slopes of Sunrise in the White Mountains. This is the largest ski area in Arizona and is run by the Apaches.

Continuing along I-40, take a look at the Meteor Crater. This is six miles south of the freeway on a paved road, and was featured in the movie *Starman*. It is the well-preserved remains of a meteor impact of about 22,000 years ago. The crater is more than three miles in circumference, 570 feet deep, and the impact probably caused the destruction of all plant and animal life within 100 miles. It was used by Apollo astronauts for training, and has a not-too-strenuous trail around the rim.

Next time we will look at interesting places on the road from Flagstaff to Phoenix. Until then, start the new year right by marking your calendars and making travel plans for 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.

March 7-9, 1996, South Central District Mini, Contact WDSJGS.
April 11-13, 1996, Great Lakes District Mini, Holland, MI.

Contact N8EMV.

July 1-5, 1996, MARAC National Convention, Phoenix, AZ.
Contact W00WY.

September 1996, North Center District Mini, Contact W0ULU.
November 7-9, 1996, South East District Mini, Murphreesboro, TN, Contact KM4W

1997 MARAC National Convention, Orlando, FL. Contact KN4JR.

1998 MARAC National Convention, San Antonio, TX. Contact WB4FBS.

The Last Word by Dick, KB3WN

First, a Help Wanted notice. We are seeking a regular columnist or two to cover the CW county hunting scene. Our two long-time columnists, Harry, NFOX, and Ed, KN4Y, have decided to stop writing for this publication following an editorial disagreement.

Anyone interested may contact me via any of the means noted on the inside front cover of this publication for an outline of what we are looking for in the way of a regular feature.

So, a full year has passed as editor. Thanks to all for your support. Following in the footsteps of Bob, K0AYO, who had been at the reigns for so long did cause a bit of trepidation ... no matter how much experience I have had. We have made some changes, we have had some suggestions that I have been able to honor, we have had some suggestions that I have not been able to honor, and the hate mail has been at a minimum.

I still am looking for as many technical articles as I can find ... not as detailed as QST and certainly pertaining explicitly to county hunting. Let me know what you can do. We can handle graphics (photos and/or drawings) fine ... so, let's talk.

COUNTY HUNTER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

County Hunter of the Year Award Application Procedure:

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

To: District Director- _____ District

I hereby nominate _____ (Name and Call) as the ___ CW ___ SSB (Check One) County Hunter of the Year for 1996 and would like to see this person announced as the winner at the convention in Phoenix, AZ. I believe that this nominee is an appropriate candidate for County Hunter of the Year for 1996 because:

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

This nomination must be received by the District Director NLT March 15, 1996.

Signature

Call

MARAC#

MARAC SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT MINI

ANNOUNCING: The 1996 South Central District Mini

DATES: March 7th, 8th and 9th, 1996

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 \$53.00 / Night + 5% Tax. A block of 60 rooms will be held until Feb. 6th.
After this date, rooms at the same rate AS AVAILABLE.
MAKE RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

RESERVATION: Write LAKE TEXOMA RESORT, Box 248; Kingston, OK 73439. Tel. (405) 564 - 2311
use Group # 1463 OR use MARAC.

ACTIVITIES: Golf tourney Friday Morning. Choctaw Indian Bingo Friday Evening 5:30 PM. MARAC Meeting 1:00 PM Saturday Afternoon. There will be a No Host Dinner at Sanfords Thursday & 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). W9UCW will do his antenna forum Saturday.

HOSPITALITY: Opens early Thursday evening 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.

REGISTRATION \$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

1996 SOUTH CENTRAL 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 # _____ Fri Thur