

# MARAC BOD MEETING MINUTES (Unofficial)

Oct 5, 2022 12:00 EST

**Call Meeting to order.** Time: 12:00EST

Board Members in attendance:

Officers: Pres, Vacant\_\_\_; Vice President, Vacant\_\_\_, Secretary, Vacant\_\_\_  
Treasurer, Vacant\_\_\_,

Directors: Great Lakes, Darl NA8W x, Northeast, Al N1API x, South Central,  
Janet, KC5QCB x, North Central, Mike, NF0N x, Pacific, Paige, W0FLZ x,  
Southeast, Kerry, W4SIG x

Guests:

1. Agenda Changes/Modifications **none**

1.b. New officers, see Agenda Item 7

**After soliciting for volunteers to run for President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer for the required 2 months via articles in the RoadRunner, we had the following members offer their services: President-K8ZZ, VP-K1YAG, Treasurer-K0DEQ. Since there was no opposition, these members were officially announced in their positions. Congratulations to Ed, Bill, and Bill. The Board looks forward to working with them.**

2. Motion to approve minutes of the BOD Meeting held on July 11, 2022. (see attachment)

Discussion: **none**

Motion: KC5QCB 2<sup>nd</sup> NF0N Aye 8 Nay 0 Abstain 0

## Reports:

3. Report on volunteers for MARAC open positions. General Counsel, Contest Manager - W4SIG Kerry **Kerry reports that General Counsel position is still open and we will continue to seek a volunteer. The Contest Manager position has created some interest. The Board will work with the interested parties in solidifying a volunteer.**

4. Report from MARAC Publicity and Advertising Coordinator - W0FLZ - Paige

Paige gave a nice presentation at the National regarding her efforts as Publicity and Advertising Coordinator. She has lots of great ideas and will be asking the Board and members for their support.

5. Report on new PC for MARAC Awards Secretary, AB7RW – KC5QCB - Janet

Janet reported that the Board approved a new PC for the Awards Secretary, AB7RW to replace the old one which was at least 10 years old and could only run Windows 7. Phil is working with a local PC shop to get the new PC loaded with all the software needed to seamlessly continue his efforts of processing MARAC awards.

6. Report on process to nominate SSB and CW Mobile Assists each Quarter – W4SIG-Kerry

Kerry reports that we need more participation from the finalists for Mobile of the Year in their nominations for top Mobile Assists. We are not always getting responses back from the top mobiles on who assisted them the most. This is needed in order to have good ballots for the candidates for Mobile Assist of the Year award.

### **Old Business:**

6. None

### **New Business:**

7. Appointments for Officer openings – Kerry W4SIG

See Agenda item 1.b. Congratulations to the new officers!

8. Proposal to allow self-credit for the 5 Band Award – Kerry W4SIG

In 2017 MARAC rules were changed to allow self-credit for a Single Band Award. However, it has been noticed that self-credit was not officially changed for the 5 Band Award. So, a member could effectively have earned a Single Band Award for five or more single bands, but not be eligible for the 5 Band Award. This is seen as an oversight and should be corrected.

Proposal:

### **Five Band Counties Award**

**OBJECTIVE:** To make contacts with amateur radio stations in All USA Counties on any five (5) amateur bands.

**SPECIAL RULES:** Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

***Self-credit (optional):***

1. A mobile/portable operator may claim self-credit toward one of the bands required for this award for the transmitted county by making at least one Valid Contact on the single band for which the credit is to be applied.
2. In order to claim self-credit for additional bands in the same county, an additional valid contact must be made on each different band that is to be claimed.
3. Self credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.
4. All contacts which claim self-credit must have been made after 2/15/2017.

**AWARD LEVELS:** Basic Certificate for 2000 counties on five (5) bands.

MARAC Trophy for All USA Counties on five (5) bands.

**APPLICATION AND FEES:** Standard application, logs, and fees. There is no charge for the MARAC Trophy.

Discussion: **Being in attendance, the question was posed to Don, K3IMC, on his ability to incorporate such a change into Logger II. Don informed us that it would take him about 1-2 weeks to get this update into the program and then everyone should recalculate their books for this award.**

Motion: **W0FLZ** 2<sup>nd</sup> **K1YAG** Aye **8** Nay **0** Abstain **0**

9. Proposal to increase the awards processing fees – W0FLZ Paige

The Awards Secretary and MARAC Secretary brought it to the Board's attention that the costs of producing and shipping awards plaques often way exceeds the fee we have been charging. Data has been accumulated and it has been determined that in some cases MARAC is spending as much as 5 times the cost to process awards than it is charging. It has been many years since the fees have been adjusted, and our fees have not been keeping up with the rising costs. This applies to almost all of our awards.

Proposal:

I recommend the following changes:

Reduce the 8.5" x 11" plaque size to fit in the ORE (One Rate Envelope) (i.e 6"x8").

Increase the fees as follows:

Item	Current Fee	Cost to club	Diff	Recommended Member \$\$	Recommended Non Member \$\$
Plaque	\$40.00	\$47.60	\$7.60	\$55.00	70.00
Car w/plate	\$20.00	\$28.49	\$8.49	\$35.00	50.00
Car w/Plaque	\$20.00	\$38.49	\$18.49	\$45.00	60.00

I would also recommend the following increases to the paper certificates as listed below:

Paper Certificate Member costs: non-member

Certificate \$1 to \$3 \$5 to \$8

Upgrade \$3 to \$5 \$7 to \$10

LC cert \$3 to \$5

Note that the above proposed rate increases allow for some expected cost increase in the near term. The above price increases should take effect Jan. 1, 2023.

Discussion: Board noted that we regret any price increases, but these are necessary to fund our awards processing operations since costs have increased significantly.

Motion \_\_ **W0FLZ** \_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_ **KC5QCB** \_ Aye \_ **8** \_ Nay \_ **0** \_ Abstain \_ **0** \_

10. MARAC Membership fees – N1API

Like everything else, costs continue to rise. For many years, MARAC membership dues have lagged behind other similar ham clubs around the country. Costs of doing business are rapidly increasing everywhere. Several years ago, club membership determined that the club account had gotten too high. Dues and award fees were dropped to allow this balance to regress to a more comfortable number. In an effort to sustain our club's funds to a point where we can continue to grow, a membership dues increase should be addressed at this point. Had we been keeping up with risings costs we could have been looking at a 25 or 30 dollar yearly dues so any change now would be minor compared to what we could be paying now.

Proposal:

I suggest the following:

- 1 Year \$ 15.00
- 2 Years \$ 30.00
- 3 Years \$ 45.00
- 5 Year Incentive \$60.00

The 5 year incentive is \$15.00 less then sending in one membership per year for 5 years.

Discussion:

Making this with a start date of Jan. 1, 2023 gives members an opportunity to extend their membership at the lower rates before they increase at the first of the year.

Motion: NIAPI 2<sup>nd</sup> KIYAG Aye 8 Nay 0 Abstain 0

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: NFON 2<sup>nd</sup> W0FLZ Aye 8 Nay 0 Abstain 0  
Time 12:27pm EST

Open discussion with membership

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Aye \_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Open discussion with membership

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## MINUTES MARAC BOD MEETING

November 8, 2021 9:00 PM EST

**Call Meeting to order.** Time: 9:01 pm EST Southeast Director W4SIG presiding

Board Members in attendance:

Officers: Pres, Ed K8ZZ \_\_\_; Vice President, Bill, K1YAG \_\_\_, Secretary, Randy, K7TQ x,

Treasurer, Bill K0DEQ x

Directors: Great Lakes, Darl NA8W x Northeast, Al N1API x South Central, Janet, KC5QCB x

North Central, Mike, NF0N x Pacific, Paige, W0FLZ x Southeast, Kerry, W4SIG x

Guests: **Historian, Mike, N8MD**

1. Agenda Changes/Modifications – **None**

2. Motion to approve minutes of the BOD Meeting held on September 13, 2021.

Discussion: None

Motion: KC5QCB 2<sup>nd</sup> W0FLZ Aye 8 Nay 0 Abstain 0

### Reports:

3. Report on collecting name of mobile operators in 7QP and other State QSO Parties who could be potential MARAC members. **W0FLZ has begun to send letters to those mobile operators.**

3a. Report from Historian, N8MD. He has received material from the previous Historian via NF0N and has created an index of many of the items. The plan is to place many of the items on the MARAC web pages.

### Old Business:

4. Vote to approve the new position of Publicity and Advertising Chairman

Discussion:

Motion: NF0N 2<sup>nd</sup> NA8W Aye 8 Nay 0 Abstain 0

**ACTION ITEM: W4SIG will advertise the position in the December RoadRunner.**

5. Progress on List of Duties for a volunteer to advertise, promote, and collect the results of a MARAC sponsored SSB and CW QSO Party.

**ACTION ITEM: The List of Duties will be sent to the Board by W4SIG and will be discussed at the December Conference Call.**

**New Business:**

- 6. Discussion to approve a motion by N1API to issue an Achievement Award to K0DEQ for his service as Legal Counsel. NOTE: Bylaws, Article V state that no vote is required. The BOD would instruct the Awards Manager to issue the award. **DONE, K0DEQ has received the Award.**

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion **\_N1API\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_K0DEQ\_ Aye \_8\_ Nay \_0\_ Abstain \_0\_ Time 9:18 pm EST**

Open discussion with membership – **None**

## **Attachment: Proposed Master Gold Award Changes**

### **Master Gold Award**

<b>IN MEMO-RIAM:</b>	The Master Gold Award is in honor of Arnie Bachmann (K9DCJ, SK). Arnie was a big part of the history of county hunting and was the unofficial MARAC historian. In 1991, Arnie authored the “USA-CA Award: The Story of County Hunting,” which was published as a three part series in <i>CQ Magazine</i> . He wrote county hunting history articles for the MARAC convention annual reports.	
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b>	For holders of both a <b>Star</b> and the Bingo - Master County Hunter Award (“Bingo”) to: 1) make <b>Valid Contacts</b> in <b>All USA Counties</b> with each other, and 2) perform service to MARAC and the county hunting community.	
<b>SPECIAL RULES:</b>	1	All contacts for Master Gold must be made after the applicant has earned at least one <b>Star</b> and the Bingo Award
	2	Each contact must be made with another operator who has also earned at least one <b>Star</b> and the Bingo Award.
	3	Both counties involved in a <b>Valid Contact</b> may be counted by both operators. However, self credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.
	4	The applicant must provide proof satisfactory to the <b>Awards Manager</b> of the following total hours of service to MARAC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completions prior to 4/1/2022 require 1,500 hours</li><li>• Completions on or after 4/1/2022 require 1,200 hours</li></ul> consisting of any combination of the following:



A. Hours earned by serving as an elected officer or director of the club or an appointed position at the rates specified in the list below for 12 months of service (any partial years of service are to be credited using the appropriate annual rate prorated to daily values and multiplied by the number of days actually served in that year):	Period before 4/1/22	Period 4/1/22 or later
• President	200	500
• Vice President	200	500
• Secretary	500	500
• Treasurer	300	500
• Past President (if position filled and active)	100	100
• District Director	100	300
• Awards Manager	500	500
• Awards Secretary	500	500
• Awards Committee Members	Actual	200
• Newsletter Editor	500	500
• Election Coordinator	Actual	200
• Publicity & Advertising Coordinator	N/A	200
• General Counsel	Actual	200
• Webmaster	Actual	200
• IT Director	Actual	300
• Lead Programmer for Logger 2: Base credit per year (no logs required)	Actual	300
• Lead Programmer for Logger 2: Supplemental credit of 1 hour for each hour worked above the base credit (logs required for all hours)	Actual	Actual
• Assistant programmers or user support persons for Logger 1 or 2: Base credit per year (no logs required)	Actual	200
• Assistant programmers or user support persons for Logger 1 or 2: Supplemental credit of 1 hour for each hour worked above the base credit (logs required for all hours)	Actual	Actual
• National or mini convention coordinator	Actual	Actual
B. Hours earned by transmitting from counties - An applicant may substitute <i>transmitted counties</i> for hours of service at the rate of one transmitted county equals one hour of service. Limitations: a. You may transmit from the same county multiple times (but no more than once on the same date), and	Actual	Actual

		b. The same county may only be counted a maximum of 50 times.		
		C. Hours earned by individuals serving in a Net Control or Assistant Net Control position during times when “structured” nets were/are in effect (Logs required)	Actual	Actual
		D. Hours earned by individuals who support county activations by operators using mobile, portable, or fixed operation can earn minutes of credit for various activities as specified below (logs of activity are required when claiming credit):	(see below)	(see below)
		a. posting/spotting active station on the W6RK or other MARAC sponsored website (if any)	N/A	4 min. / spot
		b. providing relay assistance to the active station	N/A	3 min. / run
		c. Providing all of the support in (a) and (b) plus announcing the mobile at the beginning and end of the run.	10 min. / run	10 min. / run
		E. Hours earned by posting a trip plan to the CountyHunter-Web trips page in advance of the trip. Limitation: If the plan is removed or cancelled, no credit can be claimed by the person posting the trip. (A log containing the following is required: a) date plan was posted, b) beginning and end dates of trip, c) states listed to be run.)	N/A	30 min. per plan
		F. Other service - Any member or non-member who performs a service task that benefits MARAC objectives, operations, event functions, recruiting efforts, publications such as newsletters, etc. can claim service hour credits toward the Master Gold service requirement at the rate of actual service hours expended in performing the task. Adequate explanation of the service(s) should be documented and provided to the Awards staff at the time application for the Master Gold award is submitted.	Actual	Actual
	5	All <b>Valid Contacts</b> for this award must have been made after June 1, 1994	Yes	Yes
	6	At least half of the hours of service or transmitted counties (or combination of both) must have been performed after June 1, 1994. Therefore, completions: • prior to 4/1/2022 require 750 hours after 6/1/1994, and • on or after 4/1/2022 require 600 hours after 6/1/1994.	750	600
<b>AWARD LEVELS:</b>	1	Master Gold is awarded for working <b>All USA Counties</b> and completing the hours of service required as follows: • Completions prior to 4/1/2022 require 1,500 hours • Completions on or after 4/1/2022 require 1,200 hours	1500	1200

	2	Intermediate levels are NOT available for this award.		
<b>FEES:</b>	The standard fees specified under the defined term “Fees” apply to this award.			
	If funds are not already being held for you by the Treasurer for fees, send funds via mail or paypal to the Treasurer as soon as possible (see info on application form). The award will not be issued until fees have been received.			
<b>APPLICA-TION:</b>	The application should conform to each of the requirements listed below:			
	1	The application should be entered online at the MARAC.org website using the form titled “Worked All Counties Application”. Follow all instructions on the form.		
	2	Fill in the required information in the first five fields. In the field titled “Desired Award”, select the drop-down option for “Master Gold”. Then complete the other fields on the form.		
	3	<p>In the online “Comments” field at the bottom of the form, list the following:</p> <p>a. Total service hours earned as of _____ was _____ hours.</p> <p>b. Of that total, the breakdown of that total by source of hours earned is as follows:</p> <p>1. _____ hours - <u>(enter source description)</u></p> <p>2. _____ hours - <u>(enter source description)</u></p> <p>Etc.</p>		
	4	<p>Also in the “Comments” field enter the following phrase and fill in a date:</p> <p>“The date when the required number of total service hours was achieved was _____ (mm/dd/yy).”</p>		
5	<p>Prepare an email to the Awards Secretary at the address shown at the top of the application form. Attach to that email each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A log of all contacts which satisfies the contact requirement for all 3,077 counties – including callsign worked, date, county, state, mode. It is your responsibility to verify that the other party to the contact had a “star” and had achieved the “Bingo” award prior to the time of the contact. Logger 1 or 2 should automatically validate that information, but users who don’t use Logger must validate it independently and should have a column indicating that it was validated for each contact. At the end of this log, please attest to the fact that you have verified that ALL contacts in the log were made after June 1, 1994 (Special Rule #5).</li> <li>• A log supporting each separate category of service hours earned in item 3 above. In the case where you have held multiple positions which provided a base credit or actual hours spent credit, please list each position, the from/to dates the position was held and the earned hours based on the data in Item 4 of the Special Rules section above.</li> <li>• A log of all transmitted counties that you are claiming credit for as part of your service requirement. The log should be sorted by state, county, date, time, mode, and the other operator’s callsign that you contacted at that time. At the</li> </ul>			

	<p>end of the log provide a total of all hours claimed for transmitted counties and attest to the fact that you have verified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. No county is counted more than once on a specific date</li> <li>B. No county is counted more than 50 times in the entire list submitted</li> <li>C. At least half of the transmitted county contacts or other service hours were earned after June 1, 1994 (Special Rule #6).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A log of all hours of Net Control or Assistant Net Control time including date, start time, end time, mode, hours earned, and position (NC or ANC) you were performing (if you are claiming NC or ANC credit only).</li> <li>• A log of all runs during which you were providing assistance for mobile, portable, or fixed operators who were trying to put out counties (whether on a normal county hunting frequency or not). The log should contain date, call sign of operator who was assisted, frequency, mode, and functions performed to justify the credit taken. Credit is limited to the amounts of minutes listed in Special Rule #4-D and are different depending on the actual assistance provided in that run. This log is needed only if you are claiming service credit for assisting other operators.</li> </ul>
6	<p>Enter any other appropriate comments for the Awards Secretary and then click the button titled "Submit Application" at the very bottom of the form.</p>