

MARAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 14 9PM EST

Call Meeting to order.

Time: __9 PM EST__

Board Members in attendance:

Officers: Pres, K8ZZ____, VP, W0MU __X____, Secretary, W4SIG __X____
Treasurer, K0DEQ __X____,

Directors: Great Lakes, Darl NA8W __X____, Northeast, Al N1API __X____, South
Central, Bary, N0KV __X____, North Central, Mike, NF0N __X____, Pacific, Paige,
W0FLZ __X____, Southeast, Dave, KE3VV____

Guests:

K3IMC, K2MF

1. Agenda Changes/Modifications

None

2. Motion to approve minutes of the BOD Meeting held on January 20, 2025.
(see attachment)

Discussion:

Motion: __NF0N__ 2nd __W0MU__ Aye __8__ Nay __0__ Abstain __0__

3. Update from NF0N regarding Dayton Hamvention

Mike has secured the booth, discounted at 50% for a club booth so \$315. We will be in Building 5, Booth 5103 same as last year. Mike has KJ8F and W8OP helping with the booth along with other members who stop by to rest. Mike has large USA county maps with pins for each visitor to select their home county-this was a popular item in years past. We also have new informational handouts as foldable cards with USACA Award and MARAC info on one side and a color picture of the USACA award on the other. Also, we will have a full sized color MARAC USACA Certificate on display to attract guests.

4. Update from K8ZZ regarding Michigan Mini

No update

5. Update from K3IMC regarding new website (to take place after meeting closes)

See notes from open session below.

6. Nomination periods are active for MARAC District Director positions for Pacific and Northeast districts.

Both existing Directors have submitted their names for the ballot.

7. Nomination periods are open for CHOTY nominations.

NA8W reports that he has received one nomination for both SSB and CW.

Nomination period goes til May 15.

8. ARRL article on USACA Award Status

KF7ZN reports that he has been in touch with ARRL several times and has been told that he will hear back within two weeks regarding publishing the article.

New Business:

9. Serving in the newly appointed position of MARAC USACA Records Custodian would credit the appointee to 300 hours of credit/yr toward the Masters Gold award.

Discussion: W4SIG reports that this proposal would be in line with other MARAC appointed positions.

Motion __K0DEQ__ 2nd __W4SIG__ Aye _8_ Nay _0_ Abstain _0_

10. Cost of sending a pdf to non-members for the USACA award will be \$5 and update of USACA Award Rules as attached.

The entire proposed changes are listed here with proposed changes in RED. They are intended to add a cost for the pdf USACA award for non-members only. Since K3IMC has now written software for online applications, directions are also included in the Rules change. Note that the USACA Awards Rules is a standalone document so as to not confuse new county chasers when they are applying for this initial award as to applying for the 70+ other awards that MARAC has to offer.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COUNTY AWARD

The Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) makes this award available to licensed amateurs (and SWLs) as follows:

A. Award Classes. The award is issued in seven different classes, each a separate achievement. If sufficient number of counties have been contacted, an applicant may apply for more than one class in the same application. Special endorsements will be provided for all one band or all one mode, if requested at the time of application.

Class	Number of counties required
USA 500	500
USA 1000	1000
USA 1500	1500
USA 2000	2000
USA 2500	2500
USA 3000	3000
USA 3077	ALL

B. Conditions

1. This award is available to all licensed amateurs everywhere in the world. The award is issued to an individual (or club) for all contacts made regardless of calls held, operating QTHs, or dates, except that all contacts must have been made from the same DXCC entity. The award is also available to SWLs on a heard basis but only if all contacts were heard from the same DXCC entity.
2. All contacts must be completed two-way contacts by amateur radio, or heard stations in the case of SWL applicants. Confirmation by QSL or electronic confirmations are not required.
3. QSOs via repeaters, satellites and phone patches are not valid for this award.
4. Contacts using remote station technology are permitted but only if: (1) all contacts are made over a direct RF path between the remote station and the station contacted; (2) The remote station(s) is/are located in only one DXCC entity and this entity is the same as the QTH from which all non-remote contacts are made; (3) The applicant was physically involved in each and every contact, without the use of software making the contact without the presence of the applicant.

C. County Identity

1. The list of counties of the United States includes all of the Louisiana parishes, the four judicial districts of Alaska, and the counties of the other 48 states, including the his-

torical counties in Connecticut. The official list of counties is subject to modification from time to time by the MARAC Board of Directors.

2. The applicant may assume that the QTH of a fixed station is as stated on qrz.com for that call sign unless the applicant has reason to believe the QTH may be different in which case the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the QTH at time of the QSO.
3. In the case of contacts with a mobile or portable station, the applicant may (unless there is reason to believe otherwise) use the county indicated for that station at time of the QSO as reported on the <https://ch.w6rk.com> website or on similar websites used for spotting stations for county hunters.
4. In the case of contacts with a station active in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program, the county in which the specified park is located may be used by the applicant but if the specified park is located in more than one **county** then the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the **correct county** at time of the QSO.
5. In the case of **independent cities or federal parks and** reservations not located within a county, the applicant may claim any one of the adjoining counties for credit.

D. Certificate available

1. A paper certificate suitable for framing is available by mail as well as an emailed PDF version. Both are available upon request and upon payment of the applicable fee. (see rule E.5.)
2. Only an emailed PDF certificate. This is available upon payment of applicable fee, if any. (see rule E.5.)

E. Application procedure

1. Applicants are encouraged to use the “USA CA Application Form” which can be found on the MARAC website (marac.org). Select the “Awards” tab and then select the “USA CA Application” tab.
2. If the USA CA Application form on the MARAC website is not used, then the applicant must submit the following information to the MARAC Awards Secretary:
 - a. Current call sign of the applicant, and any former call signs under which contacts used in the application were made.

- b. Name of the applicant (which is the name to appear on the certificate)
 - c. Mailing address, email address and telephone number of the applicant.
 - d. Date, time and call sign of the last QSO used in the application.
 - e. A log of all contacts required for the award being requested. This log should contain for each QSO the call of station worked (or heard for SWL applicants) date, band, mode and county.
 - f. Identification of the award level requested, including any special endorsements requested.
 - g. Request for either paper certificate or PDF certificate by email (or both).
3. The log may be a (legible) hand-written log, a computer printout or an email attachment. Digital logs may be in an ASCII or text file; Microsoft Works, Word, or Excel file; MARAC logger, or other computer logging program output file, but only if the Awards Secretary is not required to have an application program in order to read the file. The log should be alphabetical by state and alphabetical by county within each state, and should include the total number of counties in each state. Handwritten logs will not be returned to the applicant.
4. The application should be submitted to the MARAC Awards Secretary by one of the following methods:
- a. If the USA CA Application form on the MARAC website is used then the “Submit Application” option at the bottom of the form should be used.
 - b. If the USA CA Application form is not used, then the application should be submitted by either
 - Postal mail sent to: Phil Yasson, AB7RW, 13208 NE 5th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98685; or
 - Email to: ab7rw@arrl.net
5. Payment of the applicable fee, if any, (in US Dollars only) for each award requested:
- a. For a certificate in PDF form sent by email plus a large (approximately 14” x 21”) paper certificate shipped to the applicant the fee is \$50 for MARAC members and \$65 for non-MARAC members, plus an additional \$20 to ship outside the contiguous United States.

b. For only a certificate in PDF form sent by email the fee is \$5 for non-MARAC members and no fee for MARAC members.

c. The fee should be paid by either:

A. Check or money order (payable to MARAC) mailed to: Bill Morgan, 12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401. Include with the payment a message containing the applicant's call sign and the award requested.

B. Via Pay Pal to: treasurer@marac.org . Include in the message the applicant's call sign and the award requested

5. By submitting an application, the applicant certifies that all counties listed in the application were contacted (or heard for SWL) by the applicant in accordance with the rules of this award, and that the applicant will abide by the decision of the Awards Secretary in administering and interpreting these rules and the award program in general.

F. Additional provisions

1. Except as modified in the foregoing, the general rules for all MARAC awards apply to this award.

2. This award, and all applicable rules, may be amended or rescinded by the Board of Directors of MARAC at any time and without prior notice.

Revised April 14, 2025.

Discussion: Several questions were asked. The proposal, as written, was voted upon.

Motion __K0DEQ__ 2nd __N1API__ Aye _8_ Nay _0_ Abstain _0_

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: __NA8W__ 2nd __K0DEQ__ Aye _8_ Nay _0_ Abstain _0_ Time 9:29pm Eastern

Open discussion with membership

K0DEQ reports that he has submitted the IRS 990N form for Corporate Fiscal year ending 3/31/25.

NF0N reports on the upcoming Lewis and Clark Exedition special event upcoming May 31-June 15. More info at LOTOTA.org.

K3IMC reported on work progress

Up until now, applications for the USACA award have basically been via email. Now, Don has written and implemented an online application for this award, totally separate from MARAC's other awards.

Don says the new website is still in progress and will hopefully be completed by September. Our current web provider, EZCGI, has been nonexistent in support of problems we have had now for over a year. However they are the only provider that still "supports" Microsoft Access, which is what our current database is written in. Over a year ago Don started rewriting our database in mySQL. However he will still need to do a transfer of the database to the new website. When this is done, there will be a 1-2 day period for the transition to take place. He has three items still to complete before the transition can take place.

Don is working to clarify the awards application process to distinguish between USACA, Worked Counties Awards, and Transmitted Counties Awards.

He asked for patience as he works thru these changes.