MARAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 15 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___, North Central, Mike, NF0N_x__ , Pacific, Paige, W0FLZ__x_, Southeast, Dave,KE3VV_x__
Guests: K3IMC

1.Agenda Changes/Modifications

Old Business:

2. Motion to approve the minutes of the BOD Meeting held on July 7, 2025. (see attachment)
Discussion:

Motion:__KE3VV_ 2nd _N1API__ Aye 8 Nay __0__ Abstain___0__

New Business:

3. Proposal for rule change regarding Log submission for MARAC awards
KE3VV

Move to revise the USA-CA Award Rule, Section E3 to read:

The log may be a (legible) hand-written log, a computer printout or email attachment. Digital logs may be in a 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 must be alphabetical by state and alphabetical by county within each state and have one log entry for each county claimed. Handwritten logs will not be returned to the applicant.

Move to revise the regular MARAC Award Rule (Award Application Process) paragraph to read:

The Log may be a (legible) hand-written log, a computer printout, or email attachment. Digital logs may be in a 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 must be alphabetical by state and alphabetical by county within each state and have one log entry for each county claimed. Handwritten logs will not be returned to the applicant.

Discussion: This is at the request of K3IMC to clarify log submission requirements

Motion __KE3VV__ 2nd _NA8W___ Aye _8_ Nay __0_ Abstain__0_

4. Proposal for USACA rule clarification in regard to Alaska Jurisdictions and Independent Cities W4SIG

Move to add the following to the MARAC USACA Award Rules

C.1.a. For clarification, a map indicating the four Alaska Judicial Districts that are required along with their associated Communities can be found on www.marac.org and selecting the Tools option.

C.1.b. For clarification on Federal Parks, Independent Cities, and Other Enclaves a listing showing which counties can be credited can be found on www.marac.org and selecting the Tools option.

Discussion: W4SIG removed the motion. KE3VV and K3IMC are going to discuss to find best way to communicate this to county chasers for clarification.

Motion ____ 2nd _____ Aye __ Nay ___ Abstain___

5. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:__KE3VV_ 2nd NF0N Aye __8_ Nay __0__ Abstain___ Time___

Open discussion with membership

1)**FT8**- MARAC is receiving lots of USACA applications for the 500 award level that are almost all FT8. Since county cannot be transmitted during an FT8 exchange, the applicants are relying upon QRZ.com for station county information. This can lead to false data. This has specifically caused confusion with Alaska Jurisdiction Districts credit. Thus the above mentioned discussion on the best way to clearly communicate the requirements to county chasers. The desire is to point county hunters to the Alaska map and chart of communities/judicial districts that is available on the marac.org website. The same can be said for clarification on independent cities.

2)**Endorsement stickers** for higher levels of USACA for paper certificate holders.
(this does not apply to folks only requesting a pdf certificate).
If someone requests solely a pdf certificate and then later applies for a higher award level, they can simply be issued a brand new pdf with the new info indicated. There will still be the $5 fee for this new pdf for non club members.

However, if someone has received the large paper certificate and then later applied for a higher award level or an endorsement, the cost to issue a replacement certificate would be another $85, which is not feasible. K3IMC suggested the issuance of small stickers to be sent to the applicant. There is not much room on the certificate for placing these. To be discussed further. While no requests for this have come in yet, they will and K3IMC needs direction from the Board.

3)**Future of MARAC Award pdf certificates** (this does NOT apply to USACA award): For simplification, Don envisions only two types of award certificates for MARAC awards. 1) “Thank You for Last County” type awards 2) “Operating” type awards. His desire is to create quality-looking certificates for both types that only have certain fields that are editable such as the specific award name, number, date, and callsign, etc. This will greatly simplify the process and create quality certificates that people will desire. This will be worked on after other top priorities. Currently, there are way too many unique certificates to keep up with.

K3IMC, AB7RW, and W4SIG plan to work on creating these certificates sometime in the first of next year.

4)**New MARAC Website/Server update**: Don states that everything that is visible to users is now complete. All he has left to do is rewrite the application code for Phil's award processing. Once Don is ready to make the swap-over from our old Server to our new one, there will need to be *about* a three day "down time" for all award submissions including LC1 submissions. During this time, Logger users will still be able to log contacts, they just must refrain from all award submissions and then submit them manually after the transition is complete. For now, the targeted down-time is Dec 25-28 as there is less mobile activity during this time. This date may change. For advance notice and clarity for county hunters, Don is going to announce starting on Oct 1 of the upcoming changeover.

5) **County credit for State Parks**. Currently, MARAC allows credit for one of several counties for contacts with "federal" Parks like Yellowstone which extends into multiple counties (your choice of which county you want to credit). We also have Carson City, NV which extends into several counties and we allow for credit for one of several counties (your choice of which county you want to credit). Today, we have the headache of POTA operators that activate a park that extends into multiple counties. Don has asked for consideration of another rule change. Why not make a rule change that allows for credit for any of the counties that a state park constitutes. This would eliminate any confusion when a park activator does not know which county they are in. Should discuss…

Many issues were brought up against this idea. There are some POTA activations that are trails that expand for a thousand miles. It would not seem accurate to allow any of the counties that go thru that trail to count. Some stated that this would be impossible to keep up with. Generally, the idea was shut down.

6)**Discussion of MARAC Contest future.** Participation has been low for several years. The re-launch of this contest the last several years has not brought out success like we had anticipated. Participation is low and there is lots of confusion on what to send, "CQ MARAC", "CQ County", "CQ USA". Most stations worked don't know what to reply with. The long abbreviations for all 3077 counties are confusing to many, especially when not familiar with our contest. We will discuss the future of this contest during our next conference call.