

## **MARAC WILL SPONSOR THE USA-CA AWARD**

The Board of Directors of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) has voted to sponsor the coveted award for making contacts with all United States counties for the first time. The award, known as the United States of America County Award (USA-CA), was sponsored by CQ Magazine until the ham radio journal ceased publication.

The MARAC version of the USA-CA will feature most of the same features familiar to the ham radio community, including the familiar colorful large certificate outlined with 50 state flags. Available in increments of 500 counties, culminating with a certificate for all USA counties or the "Whole Ball of Wax," the MARAC rules for making valid contacts for the award will combine most of the CQ requirements with provisions that are similar to the many other MARAC awards, including contacting all counties multiple times. Special endorsements will be available for contacts using single or mixed bands and modes.

Ham radio operators who have been working toward the CQ Magazine award will be able to transfer their contacts to the MARAC USA-CA, as well as any levels of the award already achieved. Because MARAC does not have logs that were submitted to CQ for levels of the USA-CA, logs submitted to MARAC must include all contacts for counties in the application even if earlier logs were submitted to CQ Magazine.

One major change from the CQ Magazine award will be the elimination of the requirement for written confirmations. The MARAC Board noted that rising postage costs and other factors have discouraged participation in the award in recent years, and hope that using the same "honor system" applicable to other MARAC awards will encourage more amateurs to work toward the award, as well as provide county contacts as mobile or fixed stations. For a limited time, the CQ award custodian will honor all-confirmed award applications for the "Whole Ball of Wax" (only) and present the CQ USA-CA certificate. The incremental sequence numbers for both versions of the award will be synchronized so that anyone who has received the CQ award at any level will be able to continue onward working for the MARAC version of the award.

MARAC members who have purchased and installed the special MARAC logging county hunting software (Logger II) will be able to easily process county contacts and monitor their progress toward the USA-CA award.

The complete rules for the MARAC USA-CA award will be posted on the MARAC web site at [www.marac.org](http://www.marac.org). Questions can be sent to [usa-ca@marac.org](mailto:usa-ca@marac.org)