



# THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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## Riding the County Lion

Dave – KE3VV

The Big Green Dragon has reminded me that we are just over a month away from the national convention in South Dakota, so I hope everyone has registered and made reservations for the hotel and excursions to the wonders of the Black Hills. The County Lion is looking forward to Mount Rushmore, although I am really getting tired of him asking me to verify how much he resembles Teddy Roosevelt. In his catnip infested dreams. He also reminded me that this will be your last chance to meet the County Lion in person until the SE Mini, which alone should have you scrambling to gas up the car and head north.

Great news! Bob has resolved some issues and has agreed to stay on as Awards Manager, which is great because he is doing a bang-up job. I also have it on good authority that the Awards Manager is going to make a ground-breaking recommendation to the Board at the annual meeting that should please paper chasers and county runners alike.

More good news – Norm (W3DYA) has agreed to continue managing the MARAC mobile contest again this year, so plan on participating if we are going to keep this boat afloat. As I mentioned last month, this is not one of the most popular contest/QSO party (and there seems to be something going on almost every weekend and usually more than one event), so we really need to consider whether it is a MARAC priority to continue to sponsor it. I got ZERO (that means nada, nothing, zippo, nil) feedback on whether to continue the contest in response to my column last month – which either means no one reads the column (highly possible) or no one cares whether MARAC sponsors the contest or not (very likely). We chew it over at the annual meeting and, as usual, I would like to hear from you up or down, as well as any ideas on how to make it more interesting and attract more testers.

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I am looking forward to the long road trip to South Dakota. The County Lion has made up some flash cards and is quizzing the Big Green Dragon almost daily about the proper pronunciation of the counties we may traverse. I have suggested planning a route through only those counties that are easy to pronounce... the Jackson-Stark-Wayne-Wood-Lucas-Henry counties in Ohio. On the other hand, the Dragon is all prepped for counties that challenge the tongue. His favorite is Tuscarawas, not necessarily because it is obscure, but because it is right up there with the most difficult to say for many of us – a real tongue-twister. I told him to break it down – slow it up – and then it’s easy – Tusk-a-RAH-wass. He keeps saying Tuska-walrus and variations on mixing the “w” and the “r” – which is always my problem even though I know it is Tusk-s-RAH not Tusk-a-WAH. Rubber Baby Buggy Bumpers.

There are some semi-tough Ohio counties, like Auglaize (AW-glaze) and Cuyahoga (Kaya-HOE-ga with the first syllable rhyming with kayak). My personal favorite has to be Geauga, not only because it is a challenge to pronounce (most folks miss the soft “G” at the front end), but it is not run all that often. Jay-AW-guh is the way it should slide off the tongue (although the exact sound of the first syllable is somewhere between Gee and Jay. Others that might confuse are Medina (Muh-DYE-nuh) and Muskingum (Muss-KING-gum).

The County Lion can’t seem to figure out Scioto County (which does not have a hard “K” sound as you often hear), which is Sigh-OH-Toe. Easy? I hear the Lion roar. There may be a few more that challenge even the veteran county hunter and net control, but most of the rest of Ohio is pretty straightforward. Even Ashtabula is easy if you remember the correct way to pronounce old Aunt Beulah’s name. And Coshocton is easy – Ko-SHOCK-ton - as are Gallia (GAH-lee-ah) and Meigs (Meg’s – same as the county in Tennessee).

I have been receiving more suggestions in the email and will try to work my way through the states in some order or fashion. Keep those cards and letters coming. Until next month (which will have to get done a bit earlier, says the Dragon), the Three Musketeers of the Ether – Dave, the Lion, and the Dragon bid you Ah-DOO and 73’s and 88’s to all.



**Dateline CW**

Ed, KN4Y

Nothing is there more friendly to a ham than a county hunter transmitting from their WBOW County.

I just finished checking the logging data I put into the Writelog logging program when I hear Gator's truck slide to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. He comes into the radio shack carrying a white box, "Good morning Dude, I got some pastries from that new place that opened next to the pizza place." He opens the box and I withdraw an apple fritter. Calorie counting is not allowed in a county hunters radio shack. "By the way I picked up your mail and that log you sent to the Texas State Parks on the Air is returned. It is undeliverable as addressed." Gator hands me the envelope, "Well, Texas is a big place and it possible not to know where you are." Gator brings up the Texas State Parks on the Air web site. I see the problem, you have the wrong box number, you left off a digit," I look shocked, "Did I have the 5 plus 4 zip code correct?" "Yes." "I always wondered if the post office could deliver a letter with only the 5 plus 4 zip code, now we know." "What are you going to do?" "Print a correct address label and I will send the log one more time."

"I have already inputted my hand written Florida QSO party logs into Writelog. We did okay in the FQP. Here are the statistics." "I don't want to hear no statistics." I will give the county and number of QSO's in the order ran; Jefferson 89, Taylor 57, Lafayette 59, Dixie 19, Gilchrist 44, Alachua 69, Putnam 65, Clay 49, Bradford 43, Union 37, Baker 50, Columbia 34, Suwannee 5, Hamilton 50, Madison 55, Liberty 132, Franklin 47, Gulf 50, Bay 91, Walton 57, Holmes 48, Washington 25, Jackson 55, Calhoun 56, Gadsden 46, Wakulla 15. That is 26 counties, 1347 QSO's and requiring 910 miles of travel in the 20 hour time period. That also includes feeding you." "Yes, but don't forget your numerous rest area stops." Gator picks up a box. "What are you shipping?" "That is the 706 that quit during the FQP. I am going to send it to the repair shop." "Good thing you remembered to put the Icom 728 into the van." "A county hunter goes nowhere without backup, remember the Cinco de Mayo."

Gator is not paying attention; he is looking at my ten-ten Spring CW QSO party log, "I say Dude, ten meters was a champ on Saturday and dismal on Sunday. You did get four new counties on ten meters and a Natural Bingo. You also worked 36 new ten-ten numbers." I wash the pastry down with coffee, "If you notice I had 97 QSO's. I called the last four hours and could not get three more QSO's. I was so close to being persnickety." I wave to get Gator's attention, "Did you know we have Kudzu bugs in the county." "I heard Green eyes talking about that on CB. What is the problem?" They congregate on county lines and when a county hunter stops to run the county line the Kudzu saturate the antenna and absorb the transmitted signal" "Wow for real?" "No." I get Gator another cup of coffee, I am laughing so hard I wet my Depends.

Gator ignores me and picks up a sheet of paper, "How about the Nevada Mustang Round-up, how did you do?" I empty my cup of coffee."I listened a lot and never heard a station on CW." "Ford made the Mustang a neat little car for running counties. Should not have been a problem" "No Gator, in this round-up the Mustang is a wild horse." "That makes sense, hard enough to work CW on a horse not during a round-up." I hold up a certificate, "I downloaded this certificate for the Idaho QSO party and notice that new plaque on the wall from last years Alabama QSO party." "That is a great looking plaque, why did you get it?"

Gator's cell phone sounds off,"Sorry Dude, the trucks are arriving to on load ethanol, the law requires I be there. He is gone like free drinks at a hospitality room. I hear him yell;"I never said, Give me the small bag of pork rinds." The printer stops and I get the list of stations heard during May on the county

hunters CW call frequencies: AF3X, K0ARS, K0DEQ, K0FG, K2HVN, K4YT, K5YAA, K7IM, K8AO, K8ZZ, KA3QLF, KA4RRU, KC7YE, KG4VBK, KN4Y, KS5A, N0KV, N2OO, N3RC, N4CD, N4JT, N5PHT, N7IV, N9QS, NM2L, W0GXQ, W0QE, W3DQT, W4HSA, W4SIG, W5QP, W9MSE, W9OO, W9OP, WD4OIN, and WU3H.

I make a note to tell Gator I did work the King of Spain CW contest, I did make 27 contacts but the bands were brutal, I did not make the required number of QSO's to send in a log, but I enjoy working the great operators. I notice universal nap time is approaching, but first what is scheduled for June to keep us radio active. The most popular action event is the ARRL field Day. If you have not participated in a field day do it now, you will enjoy the experience. To get in shape for field day there is the Alabama QSO party (look for KN4Y/M) and the West Virginia QSO party. This is a total of 122 counties up for grabs. Need some counties on 6-meters? Check out the ARRL June VHF Contest or maybe 160-meters check out the Stew Perry Warm-up Contest. Note: I will operate the club call K4WAK on CW during field day and be good for Natural Bingo. How time flies, next month is the MARAC National Convention, July 10-13, 2013, Deadwood, South Dakota. A nap beckons. County hunter who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.



**History Happens**

Gary, K4EXT

Thanks again for all of the county line pictures that filled my inbox this past month. We now have over 1300 counties represented in the County Sign Picture Database which are displayed on the CH History website at:

<http://www.CHarchive.com/cntys.asp>

Please dig through your photo archives and Email me any old county sign pictures you find. And please keep me in mind (with regards to CL pics) on your future CH trips too! You can Email me any size (resolution) digital photos and I will convert their resolution for use on the CH History website. Note that an optimum size/resolution would be 800 x 600 pixels.

The picture below was recently Emailed to me by Scottie, N4AAT. The bicycle mobile is K9DCJ, Arnie Bachmann ... a well-known and popular County Hunter from a few years past.

Arnie was USA-CA number 86 and MARAC charter member C-45. He achieved Bingo's I and II, 5-Star, Prefix K, Prefix W, Master Gold, and 7 Stars. He and XYL Lorraine maintained an impressive collection of photos and QSL's from fellow County Hunters ... I was very fortunate to receive this stack of photos a few years back.

Arnie became a Silent Key a little over ten years ago in March 2003. His call sign K9DCJ was transferred to MARAC to become the official club call.



**2nd District**

KL7/W3ZUH/mobile

I will be arriving at Barrow at 10:15 AM (1815Z) on Tuesday July 9. I estimate I will be ready to operate by 2200Z. I will start out on 20M CW and then to 20 SSB. Then I will go up to 17 CW and then to 15 CW. I will only be able to do SSB if someone will relay for me as my hearing is not good these days! I will hang around until 0130Z on CHN frequencies, calling CHN on the hour or half hour after the first series. Anyone having any luck on 10M reaching KL7. I have a coil and can take it if there is any reasonable chance. I have tried to make sense out of the propagation predictions but this old dog is having trouble learning that new trick. In the past I have worked KL7 from California around 0300Z on 40M so will try 40M starting at 0200Z for an hour. I will be active again on Wednesday about 2000Z and follow the same plan as the day before.

I would appreciate any help as this will be a quick trip just to run the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> districts. Details on operating schedule in Fairbanks to follow as Alaska Air and I are having disconnects still! Would appreciate at least a few contacts so the next time will do the other 2 Districts.

Thanks for any inputs and help.

**New Members**

**MARAC Number**

R4532

R4533

**Callsign**

KA5GIL

K5YAA

**Name**

Gil Jones

Gerald Chouinard



K5YAA



## County Spotlight

Gary, K4EXT

This month's county spotlight is on Bradley County, Arkansas. The county is named after Captain Hugh Bradley, who fought in the war of 1812 and served with General Andrew Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. The county was formed from Union County on December 18, 1840.

Bradley County is located in south-central Arkansas and home to 14 ham radio operators but no Waffle Houses. Warren, the county seat, includes around 6,000 residents and is located about an hour and a half south of Little Rock.

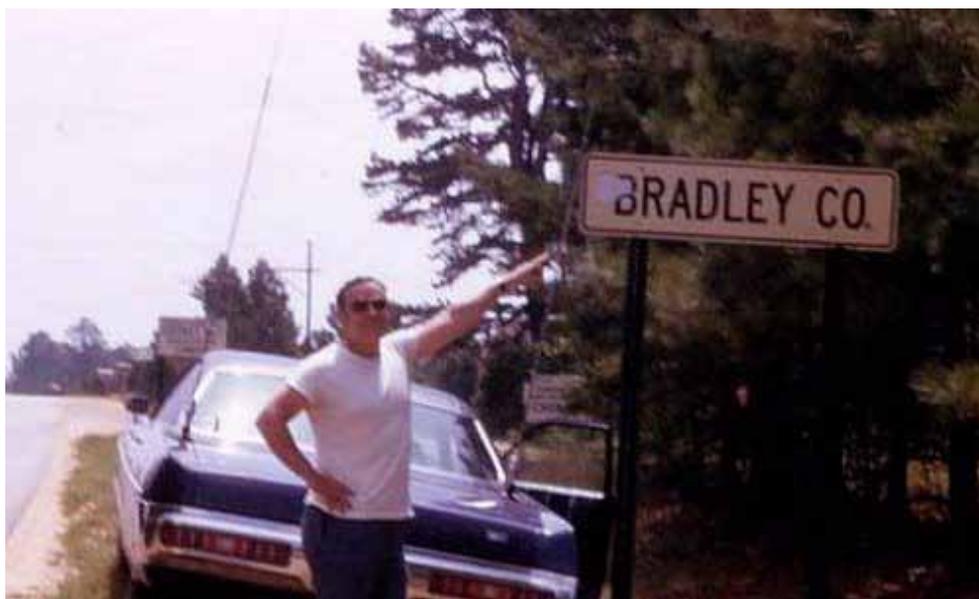


**Bradley County, Arkansas**



**Bradley County Pink Tomato  
Official State Fruit/Vegetable**

On September 22, 1972 Steve, K5KDG ran Bradley County, Arkansas ... the USA-CA (number 84) Whole-Ball-of-Wax (WBOW) county for Gil, W4IZR (SK). Steve, who is USA-CA number 45 and MARAC charter number C-73, can still be heard on the (mostly CW) CH frequencies as both fixed (Baxter County, AR) and mobile.



## Birthdays

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
KE8ST	Jun - 01
W4AMW	Jun - 01
KG8N	Jun - 01
K5IID	Jun - 01
NS6X	Jun - 01
W8QZ	Jun - 01
K0GSV	Jun - 01
KB7YD	Jun - 01
W1MHD	Jun - 02
K5OT	Jun - 02
NC4F	Jun - 02
NF4A	Jun - 02
KJ4SLY	Jun - 03
WA0RKQ	Jun - 03
N9DYE	Jun - 03
N2SU	Jun - 03
KG0AY	Jun - 03
KJ4EJ	Jun - 03
W2IN	Jun - 03
KC2CK	Jun - 03
ND7J	Jun - 04
K5NRA	Jun - 04
K5MSU	Jun - 04
N9GN	Jun - 04
AE4JG	Jun - 04
W6UI	Jun - 04
K1SO	Jun - 04
KC4QWM	Jun - 04
KE0UQ	Jun - 04
WB0TEV	Jun - 05
N6QA	Jun - 05
K1MIJ	Jun - 05
K4PBX	Jun - 05
KA1ID	Jun - 05
AA0TT	Jun - 05
K4TT	Jun - 05
W9AJ	Jun - 05

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
AA9RE	Jun - 05
W8MP	Jun - 05
K9JF	Jun - 05
K0AYO	Jun - 05
N7TAX	Jun - 06
N5SMQ	Jun - 06
AJ4QP	Jun - 06
KA5A	Jun - 06
WJ8B	Jun - 06
WA9WGJ	Jun - 07
K7WC	Jun - 07
W8LS	Jun - 07
K4YP	Jun - 07
WB3AXC	Jun - 08
K9EN	Jun - 08
W7LY	Jun - 08
AA9ID	Jun - 08
VK3MW	Jun - 09
W0XXX	Jun - 09
K2ETA	Jun - 10
WB9ELH	Jun - 10
NA8W	Jun - 11
N6NRZ	Jun - 11
N5VMW	Jun - 11
K1XG	Jun - 11
WD6CKT	Jun - 11
W8RCL	Jun - 11
KC5QCB	Jun - 12
W3BZJ	Jun - 12
K8JQ	Jun - 12
WA0ZBK	Jun - 12
WA5RD	Jun - 12
W6IYS	Jun - 12
K4BU	Jun - 12
WA4CHI	Jun - 13
N7IGX	Jun - 13
N4OA	Jun - 13

Roadrunner - Birthdays	
Call	Birthday Date
NE8M	Jun - 13
W9ACE	Jun - 13
KC3YT	Jun - 14
K4DI	Jun - 14
W4TET	Jun - 14
K1YE	Jun - 14
KD7ADH	Jun - 15
KB0BA	Jun - 15
KI7AI	Jun - 15
N5QS	Jun - 15
N5WR	Jun - 15
W0ZQ	Jun - 15
K5GUY	Jun - 15
W5LXG	Jun - 15
N4ILQ	Jun - 16
WA9OUE	Jun - 16
AE5B	Jun - 16
WI9C	Jun - 16
KC2CD	Jun - 16
NI7B	Jun - 16
KK6BB	Jun - 16
NT4W	Jun - 17
W6TMD	Jun - 17
K0ODF	Jun - 17
K6BWZ	Jun - 17
W6OUL	Jun - 17
W4DOS	Jun - 18
WV9D	Jun - 18
KD6HWD	Jun - 18
W4LJM	Jun - 18
KD9Q	Jun - 18
N2BM	Jun - 19
N9MBL	Jun - 19
NU4N	Jun - 19
KA2K	Jun - 19
K0NZ	Jun - 20
K7WUR	Jun - 20

**Roadrunner - Birthdays**

Call	Birthday Date
N4EED	Jun - 20
N3CI	Jun - 20
KD5YUK	Jun - 20
WB0TVL	Jun - 20
KE6GJ	Jun - 21
G3NDC	Jun - 21
KI7MK	Jun - 21
W4OGG	Jun - 22
N8ACL	Jun - 22
KI6PG	Jun - 22
NJ4K	Jun - 22
NV6L	Jun - 22
K0LG	Jun - 23
WV1U	Jun - 23
KE7GI	Jun - 23
WD8OWA	Jun - 23
K0DCL	Jun - 23
KK8ZZ	Jun - 23
N7IV	Jun - 24
W9NII	Jun - 24
N9FR	Jun - 24
KB7PI	Jun - 24
N4CD	Jun - 24
KB6UF	Jun - 25
W4EHT	Jun - 25
KC9GW	Jun - 26
KB4QCE	Jun - 26
KC0MB	Jun - 26
K5VFW	Jun - 27
WB9OOE	Jun - 27
W4JVN	Jun - 27
W9CNG	Jun - 27
WA0LPA	Jun - 28
KE5RJT	Jun - 28
KG5UZ	Jun - 28
WA4UNS	Jun - 28
KD2EC	Jun - 29

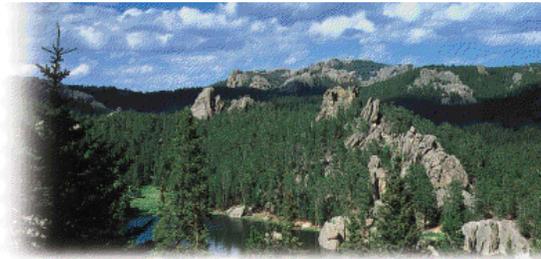
**Roadrunner - Birthdays**

Call	Birthday Date
N6VZ	Jun - 29
KD9ZP	Jun - 29
K7IOO	Jun - 29
WD5JGS	Jun - 30
AL7RQ	Jun - 30
W0LRH	Jun - 30
W2DWR	Jun - 30
K8SJ	Jun - 30
WD5RS	Jun - 30
W9MSE	Jun - 30



National

Please join us for the  
**2013 MARAC**  
National Convention

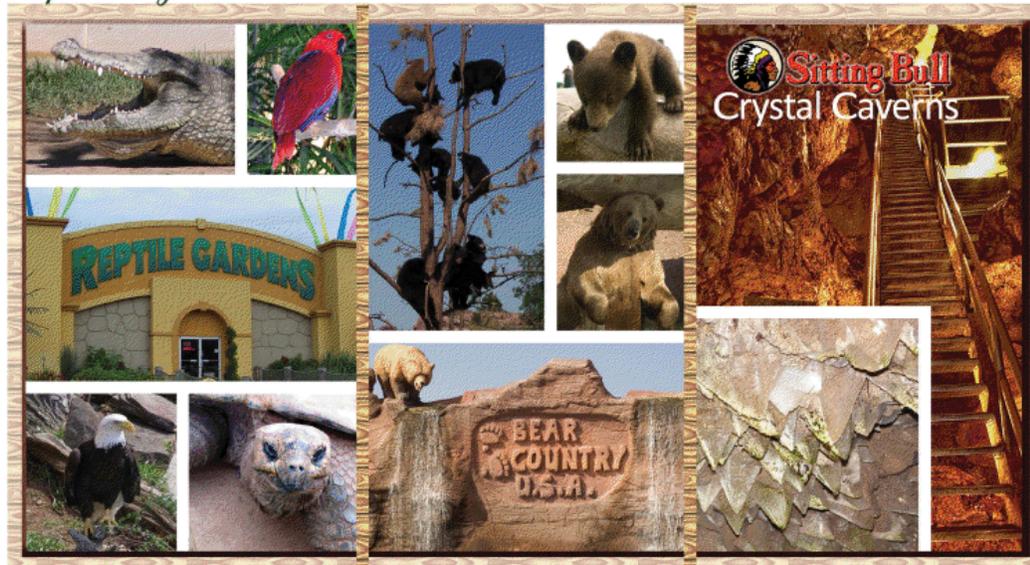


*in the Beautiful* **BLACK HILLS** OF SOUTH DAKOTA

*Hill City, SD*



*Rapid City Area, SD*



Call  
 AA9JJ  
 WQ7A  
 KZ20  
 K1DFO  
 KB0BA  
 KD9ZP  
 AB7RW  
 K1TKL  
 W0NAC  
 AB2LS  
 N5MLP  
 NA8W  
 W0GXQ  
 K7TM  
 N4AAT  
 K7SEN  
 N0KV  
 K7RE  
 WB9NUL  
 K7KWO  
 NX0X  
 WG9A  
 K5OH  
 KU4YM  
 NF0N  
 W9GUY  
 N4CD  
 WA3QNT  
 KC7YE  
 KA1YZV  
 AC0B  
 W7FEN  
 KY0E  
 K3IMC  
 AC0HW  
 N7JPF  
 W4OWY  
 KG5UZ  
 NX4W  
 KA9JAC  
 W9LHG  
 KE3VV  
 WA0RRQ

45TH ANNUAL MARAC NATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 10TH THRU JULY 13TH 2013

(Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 1, 2013)

Name: (First, Last and Callsign) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL NAME BADGES/TROLLEY PASS \$1.00 EACH

NAME: CALL USA-CA

NAME: CALL USA-CA

NAME: CALL USA-CA

REGISTRATION INCLUDES 1 BADGE & TROLLEY PASS, 1 PRIZE TICKET

1 CASH TICKET & E-MAILED PHOTOS AND AS MUCH FUN AS WY7LL

AND WY7ML CAN PROVIDE YOU... ALL FOR \$37.00

FRIDAY NIGHT BBQ RIBS\*HOT DOGS\*BURGERS\*SALADS & CHIPS  X \$23.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET 4 MEAT BUFFET  X \$30.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PRIZE TICKETS \$1.00 EACH OR BOOK OF TWELVE \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CASH TICKETS \$1.00 EACH OR BOOK OF TWELVE \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY MORNING TOUR : Historic Deadwood Including Boot Hill Cemetery with Wild

Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane \*Homestake Gold Mine \*Roundhouse Living Map  X \$20.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY AFTERNOON TOUR: Keystone shopping & buy your own lunch \*

1880 Train to Hill City \* Prairie Berry Winery  X \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(If you take both tours Thursday... \$50.00 total save \$5.00) **Both Tours**  X \$50.00

FRIDAY TOUR OPTION ONE: Mt Rushmore- Crazy Horse buy your own lunch  X \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Leave at 9:00 be at Rushmore about one hour... about 2 1/2 hours at Crazy Horse

for lunch back about 4:00

FRIDAY TOUR OPTION TWO: Mt Rushmore \* Iron Mountain Road

Custer State Park \* Buy your own lunch at State Game Lodge

Needles Highway \* Crazy Horse... Leaves @ 8:00 back @ 6:00  X \$67.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Leo Bingham WY7LL

28 Buck Drive

Pine Haven, Wyoming

82721

GRAND TOTAL : \_\_\_\_\_

make Check Payable To Leo Bingham

### **MARAC Voting Information**

**R**emember, if you are a new member or are REJOINING following a lapse in membership, you are NOT eligible to submit nominations or vote in an election until the first day of the month following receipt of the payment of dues and valid membership application by the MARAC Secretary. Those individuals maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month.

### ***BALLOT RECOGNITION***

I would like to congratulate the following stations for receiving recognition from their peer's and votes in the 4th quarter award voting: (no particular order). Only stations receiving 3 points or more are listed.

NET CONTROL SSB: KZ2P, WA9DLB, KC3X, AB7NK, N5UZW ,N5MLP, N4AAT

NET CONTROL CW: K0DEQ, KC3X, N4CD, W0GXQ

BEST MOBILE SSB: N5UZW, N0KV, W4SIG, N0ZDZ, AB7NK, N8KIE, AF3X, K0FG, K5GE, KM9X, AC0HW, N5MLP

BEST MOBILE CW: K0FG, N4CD, W4SIG, W5QP, W0GXQ

BEST TEAM: N6PDB/WA6OCV, N0KV/N0DXE, KB0BA/N0XYL, AA9JJ/N9QPQ, W0NAC/N0LXJ, KA9JAC/KB9YVT, AB7NK/K7SEN

**Kent Reinke**  
**MARAC Election Coordinator**  
**1826 East 4500 North**  
**Buhl, Idaho 83316**



**Digital Happenings #10**

(May 2013)

By W0NAC ("Matt")

**W**inston Churchill is quoted as saying "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." I found myself wondering how this applies to digital county hunting. Yes, it can be challenging to set up a digital rig (especially mobile), and wading through those pesky manuals to learn how to use new software is sometimes enough to make a preacher cuss! Never-the-less, I remain convinced that the end result is worth all the effort and I invite those of you that are uninitiated into digital county hunting to take the plunge! As an old commercial used to say "Try it, you'll like it".

**Challenge Department:**

Last month I challenged you to solve a new puzzle as stated below:

What is the shortest word in the English dictionary that contains all 5 vowels once and only once and in exact alphabetical order?

I certainly got my "comeuppance" on this one! For ages I have believed the answer to this question was the word "facetious" (9 letters). Our president, KE3VV (Dave) provided the earliest correct solution with the word "aerious" (7 letters), closely followed by KB9VQM (Louie) and W5VD (Hank). Thanks, Dave, for straightening me out...

Now, I would like to challenge you again with a different problem:

What 6 letter English word contains NO common vowels (AEIOU), but does contain 3 Y's used as vowels. Hint: an astronomical term.

I will again provide the correct solution in next month's article along with a list of who sent in the correct solution. Send your solutions to [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net).

**Western Colorado Digital Mode Experiment:**

Last month I described a series of over-the-air tests of 83 different digital modes/sub-modes to determine their Bandwidth, Time to transmit 100 characters, Words/Minute, and general comments on delays, copy, etc. The results of these tests are still available at this link: [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Modes\\_Submodes%20Test%2002.xlsx](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Modes_Submodes%20Test%2002.xlsx).

Based on these results I selected 18 modes/sub-modes which warrant further testing. These are shown below:

### Mode/Sub-Mode Candidates

Mode	Sub-Mode #1	Sub-Mode #2	Sub-Mode #3
CONTESTIA	8/1000		
DOMINOEX	16	22	44
HELL	80		
MFSK	31	32	64
OLIVIA	8/1000		
PSK	BPSK-63	BPSK-125	BPSK-250
RTTY	45	75N	75W
THOR	22		
THROB	4	X4	

In an effort to better explore the usefulness of these 18 modes/sub modes, Sharon and I completed a loop around Western Colorado where we tested 5 of them. We put out a total of 24 unique counties on 11 county lines and 4 as single counties. Please keep in mind when you examine the table below, that I have counted ALL contacts, not QSOs. For example, if a station worked both of us on a county line, that was counted as four contacts. As promised earlier, here are the detailed results of our trip:

**WESTERN COLORADO TRIP RESULTS**  
(26 – 28 April 2013)

COUNTIES\MODES	COMBINED CONTACTS						
	SSB	CW	BPSK-63	RTTY-45	RTTY-75N	MFSK-32	DOMINOEX-22
Jefferson	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summit	10	0	2	2	0	2	0
Lake/Eagle	104	0	32	24	0	32	0
Pitkin/Gunnison	52	0	24	24	0	24	0
Garfield/Rio Blanco	40	12	12	8	0	12	0
Mesa/Delta	84	0	36	44	0	40	0
Montrose/Ouray	88	0	40	24	0	36	24
San Juan/La Plata	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
San Juan (Only)	76	0	12	20	0	18	0
La Plata/Montezuma	48	4	32	32	0	36	0
Archuleta	20	0	16	16	0	0	14
Mineral/Hinsdale	112	0	36	36	0	24	20
Rio Grande/Alamosa	124	0	44	48	0	0	40
Conejos/Alamosa	136	0	32	0	36	0	40
Costilla/Huerfano	108	4	28	0	36	0	36
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>174</b>
					Grand Total:	<b>2126</b>	

Based on our experiences on this trip, I offer the following comments:

1) The “old standby” modes – BPSK-63 and RTTY-45 still work well, but are noticeably slower than some of the newer modes. This slowness is especially true for RTTY-45. Even so, both modes seem to be very robust and most people have the software to run them.

2) RTTY-75N is about 50% faster than RTTY-45 and may eventually become the recommended RTTY mode for running counties. Its main drawbacks are that not everyone has the software to run it and a general mistrust of anything new. Fldigi users will have no problems using this mode.

3) MFSK-32 is a good mode, but like all MFSK modes, requires extremely accurate tuning to successfully decode. When operating in a mobile environment, difficult tuning can slow things down because missed calls/replies require repeats. Never-the-less, MFSK-32 is a better mode to use than MFSK-16 that has been used in the past, mainly because it is twice as fast!

4) DominoEX-22 seems to be gaining favor lately. It is extremely fast and seems to do as well (or better) with weak signals than other modes. Terry (WQ7A) has pointed out that this mode will occasionally truncate the first few characters of a received transmission (maybe because it is so fast?).



on his runs.

- 3) W0NAC/N0LXJ (Matt & Sharon) put out rare (??) Elbert County, CO in late May. We used BPSK-63, RTTY-75N, DOMINOEX-22, and OLIVIA 8/1000 modes.
- 4) NX4W (Lloyd) put out a tremendous number of digital counties in FL, GA, and AL in late May. He used at least 5 different modes including BPSK-63, RTTY-45, MFSK-32, THROB, and DOMINOEX-22 during his many runs. Unfortunately, poor propagation and high noise levels reduced the number of people who could take advantage of Lloyd's good work.

Support calls related to digital setup, etc. have maintained a steady pace. As always, I stand ready to help anyone who has problems or wishes to get started with digital operations. Just email me or call me on the phone. My email is [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net) and my home phone number is 303-799-3658. Call any time.

Table 3 (below) has again been updated from last month. I updated several people using files I had from previous Logger support calls. Please check my work, and if you think your numbers are not right, please drop me a quick email and include your correct stats, if you know them. If you haven't the "foggiest" idea what your stats are, please attach zipped copies of your most current Logger call sign database, and your Common database and I can extract your stats from these. For example, my two databases are named "County Hunter - W0NAC.mdb" and "County Hunters - Common.mdb". Both files can normally be found in the following folder: "C:\Logger Data\". Again, please "ZIP" these files as my email provider won't pass files with an "mdb" file extension.

Logger will currently give you your status for the USA - Digital Award (go to "View/Edit/Book/USA-Digital/All"), but for the 5 - Mode Award, Logger only reports those counties which have been worked using all 5 different modes. You can see your 5 - Mode Award status by going to "View/Edit/Book/5 - Mode/All". A fix is still in the works that will report on the status of 1, 2, 3, and 4 completed counties. In the meantime, your only options are to manually count them (from a Logger printed 5-Mode report) or, as mentioned above, send your data files to me for extraction.

Establishing an interactive web site for digital matters is still in the works, but has been held up by more pressing matters. One of the functions I hope to have on the site is an interactive way for digital folk to input their status so I can update the table. I have a server and a domain name, but still need to develop the software for the site. It will probably be several months before the site is up and functional.

Here is the updated Table 3:

Table 3 - Active Digital County Hunters Award Status

#	CALL	NAME	STATUS* (M,F,I)	USA - DIGITAL Counties (of 3077)	(1 MODE)	(2 MODES)	FIVE MODE COUNTIES (3 MODES)	(4 MODES)	(5 MODES)	LAST UPDATED
1	AA8R	Randy	F	1000+	-	-	-	-	-	9/30/2012
2	AC0B	Cliff	F	205	-	-	-	-	-	12/10/2012
3	AD1C	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4	K0DEO	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5	K0PVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6	K0WJ	Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7	K4PBX	Jim	F	106	2575	84	6	0	0	10/15/2012
8	K5GE	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9	K5SF	Dick	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10	K5WAF	Bill	F	599	3044	?	?	?	?	5/2/2013
11	K7REL	Tom	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
12	K8QWY	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
13	K8ZZ	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14	KA8IQP	Pamela	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15	KC3X	Hollis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16	KC6AWX	Bob	F	450	3077	1592	264	59	14	5/7/2013
17	KC7YE	Jack	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
18	KD5YUK	Billv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
19	KD7KST	Bill	M/F	1792	-	-	-	-	-	9/30/2012
20	KG5RJ	Greg	F	557	3048	2062	496	147	34	5/2/2013
21	KM1C	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
22	KM6HB	Mark	F	714	3077	2936	694	87	1	2/3/2013
23	N0KV	Barrv	M/F	412	3077	2996	2064	249	24	8/26/2012
24	N0LXJ	Sharon	M/F	1334	3077	2235	1163	423	201	5/26/2013
25	N1API	Al	F	313	3077	519	128	22	6	4/10/2013
26	N3HOO	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
27	N4JT	Jim	F	572	3077	3058	575	99	55	10/30/2012
28	N5MLP	Ron	M/F	391	3077	409	54	37	9	5/19/2013
29	N6PDB	Dennis	M/F	375	3077	2633	413	138	115	3/28/2013
30	N8CIJ	Dick	F	481	3077	2971	393	117	109	1/21/2013
31	N8HAM	Jim	I	0	3077	0	0	0	0	4/2/2013
32	N9WNN	Steve	F	0	2180	0	0	0	0	2/24/2013
33	NA8W	Darl	F	535	2993	?	?	?	55	4/6/2013
34	NF0N	Mike	F	785	3077	3077	915	108	50	12/31/2012
35	NN9K	Pete	F	816	3077	859	78	1	0	3/23/2012
36	NT2A	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
37	NU4C	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
38	NW6S	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
39	NX4W	Lloyd	M/F	1127	3077	1190	306	146	78	5/21/2013
40	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1769	3077	2802	1899	940	349	5/26/2013
41	W3DLM	Don	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
42	W4IHI	Garv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
43	W4SIG	Kerrv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
44	W4YDY	Dave	F	752	3077	3077	921	213	46	3/6/2013
45	W5QP	Rick	M/F	90	3077	1674	44	0	0	10/21/2012
46	W6RK	Risto	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
47	W6RLL	Joe	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
48	W7IN	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
49	W7QQ	Bill	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
50	W9JR	Rich	F	90	3077	1674	44	0	0	10/31/2012
51	W9SUQ	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
52	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
53	WA6OCV	Susan	M/F	328	3077	328	320	130	10	3/28/2013
54	WA7JHO	Sterling	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
55	WB0M	Jeff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
56	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	
57	WD4OIN	Jack	F	395	3077	3065	410	67	8	3/3/2013
58	WQ7A	Terry	F	158	3077	3011	163	96	81	5/26/2013
59	WY4D	Bennie	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Possible topics for the coming months include –

“How To Log Your Digital Contacts In Logger”

“Macros – Revisited”

“New Digital Awards?”

“Digital Software Installation – Revisited”

“Award Difficulty Index”

“Additional Digital Mode Test Results”

“Monthly Tip For Digital Operation”

So long again.....Please email me with your comments/suggestions at [w0nac@comcast.net](mailto:w0nac@comcast.net) and don't forget to send me your counties worked status on the USA – Digital and 5 - Mode Awards so I can update the Digital County Hunter Status List again next month.

73's and we hope to see you at the National Convention in Deadwood.  
Matt – W0NAC



**Treasurer's Report (W0NAC)  
April 2013\***

Beginning Account Balances Apr 4, 2013 **\$34,033.56**

April Income:

Money Market Interest	\$2.14	
Awards Manager Income	\$0.00 #	
Membership Income	\$381.47	
Logger distribution	\$20.00	
Total Income:		<u>\$403.61</u>

April Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses	\$0.00 #	
Office Expenses	\$0.00	
MARAC Web Site Fees	\$107.88	
Logger Expense (S/W)	\$106.94	
Total Expenses:		<u>\$214.82</u>

April Net Income Less Expenses **\$188.79**

New Total Balance ALL Accounts: **\$34,222.35**

Checking Account Balance	<u>\$8204.56</u>	
Money Market Account Balance	<u>\$26,017.79</u>	
Total:		<b>\$34,222.35</b>

Note:

The following monies are not included in the above:

Awards Chairman's Funds	\$1,500.00
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\* Includes April transactions recorded through 5/10/2013

# Award Manager Income/Expenses For April Were Delayed. They Will Be Reported In May.



**Awards Manager's Report  
May 31, 2013**

Funds Balance March 31, 2013		<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Income	\$ 977.50	
	<u>\$ 977.50</u>	
Expenses:		
Office supplies	\$ 311.59	
Plaque Suppliers	\$ 147.00	
Postage	\$ 70.73	
	<u>\$ 529.32</u>	
Sent to Treasurer		\$ 977.50
Reimbursement received from Treasurer		\$ 529.32
Funds Balance May 31, 2013		<b>\$1500.00</b>

**Awards Note**

All last counties were processed and are listed on the [marac.org](http://marac.org) site  
Unfortunately there was a problem with emailing the last counties to members.  
So if you want to see who gave you last counties it is on the site  
Sorry for any inconvenience

This is being worked on and should soon be fixed.

Also, that I will be away from June 4 – 10

MARAC AWARDS  
Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX

## Awards

Awards Issued For April/May			
Call	Date	Award	Number
N1API	4/3/2013	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)	# 268 2nd Time Holders
AB7NK	4/3/2013	Gemini - Jack Scroggins (W0SJE)	# 150 2nd Time Holders
K7REL	4/1/2013	USA-Prefix ALL Prefixes	# 2
K7REL	4/1/2013	USA-Prefix "A"	# 3
WA9DLB	5/1/2013	USA-Prefix "A"	# 4
K4XI	4/28/2013	5 Star	# 64
KA1JPR	8/27/2012	Master's Gold	# 56
NF0N	5/28/2013	Master's Gold	# 57
SM6VR	5/13/2013	USA-CW	# 133
W9UX	4/23/2013	BINGO	# 349
N6PDB	4/20/2013	BINGO II	# 91
K4YT	4/26/2013	BINGO II	# 92
N8KIE	5/27/2013	BINGO III	# 27
K7TM	4/11/2013	Worked all Counties - 2nd Time	# 422
SM6VR	5/13/2013	Worked all Counties - 3rd Time	# 238
WA3QNT	5/18/2013	Worked all Counties - 4th Time	# 158
N8KIE	5/27/2013	Worked all Counties - 5th Time	# 110
WB9STT	3/30/2013	Worked all Counties - 6thTime	# 44

Roadrunner Issued For April/May				
Call	Date	Count	Award	Number
N4CD	5/2/2013	Last County Count 2175	Last County Count 2175	# 1
N8KIE	4/14/2013	Last County Count 800	Last County Count 800	# 13
W9MSE	4/14/2013	Last County Count 325	Last County Count 325	# 56
N5MLP	4/14/2013	Last County Count 50	Last County Count 50	# 338
KB0BA	4/14/2013	Last County Count 125	Last County Count 125	# 177
N0DXE	5/2/2013	Last County Count 150	Last County Count 150	# 159
AF3X	5/2/2013	Last County Count 200	Last County Count 200	# 106
N0KV	5/2/2013	Last County Count 450	Last County Count 450	# 39
KM9X	5/2/2013	Last County Count 400	Last County Count 400	# 44
K4YT	5/3/2013	Last County Count 75	Last County Count 75	# 264
W5QP	5/16/2013	Last County Count 100	Last County Count 100	# 236
N5UZW	5/16/2013	Last County Count 300	Last County Count 300	# 66
K2HVN	5/16/2013	Last County Count 725	Last County Count 725	# 17
KS5A	5/9/2013	Last County Count 175	Last County Count 175	# 130
W0QE	5/27/2013	Last County Count 100	Last County Count 100	# 237
ND9M	5/2/2013	Last County Count 250	Last County Count 250	# 80



**Dave's Call**

**W**ow. For me this has been a hectic month.

Our seven year old laptop started to go bad. That meant getting a new one and learning a whole new set of idiosyncrasies.

Gigabytes of files and programs had to migrated from the old to the new; including RoadRunner and Logger. Thank goodness for Terry, WQ7A. Were it not Terry's patient hand holding I'd have never gotten Logger moved over. (I run Logger on a Mac which compounds everything.)

Several programs won't run at all on the new operating system. Most critical of all is the word processing program used for all of Ellen's writings. Guess who gets to convert them all.

The product keys for Microsoft Office wouldn't transfer either. Dealing with the Gates Gang was no joy whatsoever. That took many calls over several days to get a new product key.

The series of Digi articles by Matt, W0NAC has gotten me interested in those modes. So more stuff for the shack. Again Mac issues; the Fldigi macro editing procedures on a Mac are not quite crystal clear. I'm still dealing with that problem. If any of you have solved it, please let me know.

Oops, the printer just told me it's running out of toner. Off to Staples.

Ellen and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Deadwood next month. You are going aren't you?

73, Dave KU4YM



Calendar

~ June 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ONLY START DATE SHOWN						1 10-10 OPEN AL QP
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 WV QP
16	17 RUN4BACON	18	19	20	21	22 FIELD DAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Notes: CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE					

C



**Awards Committee**

**These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:**

**Awards Manager - Bob Devine (KC6AWX)**

**Phil Yasson ( AB7RW )**

**Bob Gedemer ( KA9JAC )**

**Dave Splitt ( KE3VV )**

**Kent Reinke ( KL1V )**

**Ed Palagyi ( KN4Y )**

**Leo Bingham ( WY7LL )**

**“Matt” Matthew (W0NAC)**

**David Pyle ( KW1DX)**

*The County Line Roadrunner*  
**MARAC Secretary**  
**2690 Bohicket Rd**  
**Johns Island, SC 29455**

*“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”*

**Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25<sup>th</sup>!**

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