



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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May 2018

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MUsings from W0MU

Another month has come and gone! Wow time flies! We have a new addition to the W0MU family! Our mare, Flame, finally gave birth to a healthy filly, Cinnamon, April 21st. As expected the birth happened at 3:30AM and it was snowing! They are both doing great!



Michigan Mini

The 11th Michigan Mini just concluded with 57 people in attendance from as far away as Hawaii and 17 states were represented. A great time was had by all!

WQ7A, Terry, was presented with a lifetime achievement award for his many years of work and support with logger. This was a special nomination made by KD9ZP, Gene. Congratulations Terry and thank you so much for your years of dedication and time to MARAC and Logger!

K8ZZ and W8TVT announced that they will be stepping down as the organizers of the Michigan Mini after next year. Thank you both for all you have done for county hunting! If you are interested in helping next year or taking over please contact K8ZZ or W8TVT.

Elections

Our annual elections are just around the corner. If you are interested in helping the club, please let the Election Coordinator know your intentions and get on the ballot.

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**Celebrating 50 years of County Hunting/2018 MARAC National Convention
Kansas City, Missouri
October 3-6**

This years convention will be the 50th annual county hunter convention. That is pretty amazing! We are inviting all county hunters to attend this special event, MARAC member or not. Lets all get together and have a great time! If you like BBQ then make sure you make plans to attend the poolside BBQ on Thursday! The banquet will be Saturday. Early bird registrations will be entered in a drawing to win a new HF rig! I am looking forward to meeting many of you in person for the first time and of course seeing old friends.

For more information or to register head over to the convention website at www.chspot.org/wp and you can find links at www.marac.org.

Remote Activity

Remote activity is still a hot topic for some. Whether you agree with it or not, it is allowed by nearly all major organizations that have awards, such as the ARRL and CQ. Remote operations were approved years ago for MARAC awards. I see remote radio as the future of the hobby as cities become more and more noisy with poor regulations of RFI emissions from devices. Remote is also allowing people to move into smaller homes, retirement villages and even nursing homes and still be able to enjoy ham radio and county hunting. In fact, I have heard of people working remote while in the hospital. If you don't like remotes or remote operations then don't do it and don't work remotes if that makes you feel better. We allow people to work each other with hand-helds, relays and spotting networks. You are free to choose who you work and why for your own reasons. I would ask you not to force your views on others and allow everyone to chase their awards the way they want to while chase your awards your way.

That is it for this month. If you have comments or concerns please shoot me an email or give me a call.

W0MU
Mike Fatchett
President



Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

To many people county hunting must seem like an attempt to tattoo soap bubbles.

I am sitting with my feet on the desk in the radio shack meditating, or at least I think I am meditating about how fast the months fly but that is okay since I have no vote. The month weather with May Day where celebrants dance an attached sheet, also Memorial Day when also Mother's Day common to both sideband you have been waiting what seemed like ages to the National Day of Prayer.



by. Golly, it is May already, of May means warmer around a gin pole whipping summer begins. There is and CW county hunters. If work that last county there is

I hear Gator downshift his 4x4 and he slides to a stop at the recycled railroad tie. Gator picks up the mail and enters the radio shack carrying the familiar white cardboard container, he opens the container and hands me a latte, "Greetings Dude thought I stop in for some chat and coffee before heading to the plant." I sip my hot latte, "Thanks Gator, I was just thinking how fast this year is going into the history books. Gator, if you got the time please check out my Missouri and Mississippi QSO party logs." Gator turns on the computer, "No problem Dude." We sip our lattes as the computer reaches puberty. I hand Gator a memory stick, "Here are the QSO parties." Gator does his thing.

Gator takes a log sip and sets his latte down on the desk, "Well Dude you made 45 QSOs in the Mississippi QSO party, worked 33 counties and you logged four Bingo III, one master platinum, one 2x2 call and four no stars. I also noticed more than half of your QSOs were with mobiles." I shake my head yes, "How many mobiles did I QSO?" Gator looks at the screen, "There were four: Jim, KC4HW, Chuck, NO5W, Norm, W3DYA, and that Elvis Dude, Kerry, W4SIG. I think only the last two operators are MARAC members." I shake my head in agreement, Gator looks at the computer.

"I am not sure if you did well; you got 75 QSOs in the Missouri QSO party but entered only one No-Star in Logger. Dude I count ten mobiles using 1X1 calls and Pat, K0PC, Bill, K0AC and the time traveler Jim, N9JF. Looks like you had fun." I sip my latte, "Yes Gator, I received a certificate for the Missouri SHOW ME award and I came in second in Florida last year. Now take a look at my rover activities during the Georgia QSO party." Gator laughs, "Second place is like kissing your sister." Gator bends over and picks up a memo pad off the floor. He reads the note, "Dude what does this 2000 mean?"

I laugh too hard and snort some latte out my nose, “Gator you remember when I received my membership in the CW Operators’ Club I received membership number 1684 and when working stations during the CWT I noticed the numbers are now in the 2000s so I made the note to remind me to tell you about the news. The use of the CW mode to communicate especially in contests is growing in the amateur radio ranks.

Gator stares at the computer screen, “Dude I read that Ken, K9EN, is a Silent Key. Did you know him?” I sip my latte “I hate to hear that kind of news. Yes I worked Ken several years ago when I was mobile on the county Hunter’s Net.” Gator interrupts, “Dude I also read that Press Jones, N8UG, who was known as The Wireman is also a silent key.” “Yes Gator, I purchased many feet of coax from the Wireman.” We bow our heads as Gator recites The Shepherd’s Psalm.

I finish my latte and get another cup of latte from the container, “Gator are you going to look at my Georgia QSO party Rover run during my lifetime?” Gator gives me the settle down gesture. He studies the computer screen, “Dude I am impressed. You traveled a total of 1026 miles; completed 1146 QSOs and operated from 32 Georgia counties.” I laugh, “My drivers got lost a few times. Check in what counties I actually called CQ?” Gator looks at the computer screen, “To make it easy I will name the county in the order you traveled: Thomas, Brooks, Lowndes, Lanier, Berrien, Atkinson, Irwin, Ben Hill, Coffee, Telfair, Dodge, Wilcox, Crisp, Turner, Cook, Colquitt, Grady, Decatur, Seminole, Miller, Early, Clay, Quitman, Steward, Webster, Marion, Talbot, Taylor, Macon, Sumter, Dougherty and you ended the QSO party in Mitchell county. It is a miracle you accomplished this without me driving. I did a quick calculation and not counting Coffee County you averaged 37 QSO per county. I wonder why Georgia has so many counties.”

I sip my latte, “Well Gator the reason the State of Georgia has so many counties is back in the early Georgia government years a law required that in a county, the county seat could not be more than two days ride by horse and buggy from anywhere in the county.” Gator is looking at the computer screen.

“Well Dude I see you made 36 QSOs during that up-north Michigan QSO party, worked one mobile, Jim, K8IR, and got a No-Star. “Yes Gator there was not much CW activity; I guess they all had cold fingers.” We have a laugh and finish our lattes. Gator brings up the Ontario QSO party, “What happened Dude? You only made 17 QSOs, you usually do better. Did you hyperventilate?” I laugh, “Actually Gator I forgot about the QSO party. I remembered the QSO party too late to work many stations. Please check my Nebraska QSO party.” Gator brings up the Nebraska QSO party log and starts laughing, “Darn Dude you made 11 QSO and eight of them with one mobile, Chuck, W0BH.” I interrupt Gator, “I do not think there are many CW operators left in Nebraska, most having retired

and moved to Florida.” We have a good laugh.

Okay Gator how about checking my mobile run in the Florida QSO party. Suddenly CQ, CQ, CQ is heard from Gator’s dumb phone. “Got’ta flash out Dude, a representative from the Florida Department of Elders Affairs is at the plant and wants to talk to me about a Sunshine State elixir.” Gator is out the door and on the road faster than the contents in a bottle of wine at a MARAC convention. I hear him yell: “Rest in peace Barbara Bush.” Another kamikaze squirrel’s dream is fulfilled. I try to remember where I put the shovel. The printer stops. I get the printout and it is a list of the mobile county hunters heard during the month of April on the CW call frequencies.

I read: AB7RW, K0DEQ, K2HVN, K8ZZ, KN4Y, N4CD, N4UP, N9EEN, N9JF, NN9K, W0BH, W3DYA, W4SIG, WA3QNT, WB0PYF, and WJ8Y.

The month of May starts with the 10-10 International Spring CW QSO party AND all county hunters are invited to listen on ten meters, and hopefully, have a CW QSO with KN4Y. During the month of May CW county hunters have a shot at 495 counties by operating in the 7th Call Area QSO party (Arizona 15 counties, Idaho 44 counties, Montana 56 counties, Nevada 16 counties, Oregon 36 counties, Utah 29 counties, Washington 39 counties, Wyoming 23 counties). The New England QSO party (Connecticut 8 counties, Maine 16 counties, Massachusetts 14 counties, New Hampshire 10 counties, Rhode Island 5 counties, Vermont 14 counties). The Delaware QSO party 3 counties, the Indiana QSO party 92 counties and the Arkansas QSO party 75 counties.

Not into state QSO parties, try the King of Spain CW contest, or celebrate the oldest navy in the world and operate in the Portuguese Navy Day Contest. Of course to finish out the month operate in the CQ World-Wide WPX CW Contest. All this excitement, nap time.

Awards

Awards Committee

Nominations for County Hunter of the Year – April 1 to May 15

As noted in the April issue of the RoadRunner, nominations are open until May 15th for

1. County Hunter of the Year – SSB, and
2. County Hunter of the Year – CW.

I will not reiterate all of the changes approved on March 1st regarding eligibility for the award, considerations for those you may wish to nominate, or the specific 12 month period of activity that all considerations should be referenced to since those were spelled out in detail in the April issue.

Be sure to get your nominations in to your District Director no later than May 15.

Awards Issued:

I was on vacation during most of April and Phil, AB7RW has been traveling to/from the Michigan mini convention this month. We will include any awards issued during April in the next RoadRunner issue.

MARAC Awards Committee



N5MLP – Ron Clift, Marac Awards Manager

**Treasurer's Report (W7OLY)
March 2018***

Beginning Account Balances March 16, 2018 **\$24,202.53**

Income:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Money Market Interest | \$0.00 | |
| Awards Secretary Income | \$241.70 | |
| Misc. Income | \$0.00 | |
| Membership Income | \$322.21 | |
| Logger Distribution | <u>\$38.54</u> | |
| Total Income: | | \$602.45 |

Other Expenses:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Awards Secretary Expenses | \$0.00 | |
| Misc. Expenses | \$652.35 | |
| Office Expenses (Postage, Etc.) | <u>\$0.00</u> | |
| Total Expenses: | | \$652.35 |

Net Income Less Expenses **(\$49.90)**

New Total Cash Balance ALL Accounts: **\$24,152.63**

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Checking Account Balance | \$ 9,029.23 |
| Money Market Account Balance | <u>\$15,123.40</u> |
| Total Cash All Accounts: | \$24,152.63 |

* Includes Transactions posted through 3/31/2018

* The \$1,500.00 Awards Secretary Funds are not included in the above balance.

Notes:



From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC Total Funds at the end of August should be discounted by **\$6,025.15**. This amount is a Deferred Liability of award fees pre-paid by members. After discounting, our true (spendable) Cash Assets are **\$18,127.48**.

Events

| | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 5/5 | 10-10 CW |
| 5/5 | 7s QP (NO LINK) |
| 5/5 | DE QP |
| 5/5 | IN QP |
| 5/5 | NEW ENG QP |
| 5/12 | AR QP |
| 5/14 | 4S SPRINT |
| 10/3/18 | 50 TH NATIONAL |



ONLY START DATE SHOWN

CLICK ON EVENT TO GO TO THAT WEB SITE

Convention

Another Michigan mini is in the books. There were 17 states represented, 47 attending. Fifty-fifty drawing went to AC7UH and N8KIE was the winner of the I-Pad.

It's not too early to start making plans for the 50th County Hunting Convention, centrally located in Kansas City, MO., Oct 3-6th. The National website should be up & running by the time you read this or shortly after.

Get your reservations in early for the chance to win a Yaesu FT857D.

See you in October
Ed - K8ZZ

Awards Committee

These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:

Awards Manager - Ron Clift (N5MLP)

Robert Woody - N8KIE

Tony Mazzocco -WA9DLB

Robert Hallock - K7TM

Bob Voss - N4CD

Jack Jacobs - WD4OIN

The County Line Roadrunner
MARAC Secretary
PO Box 500
Yelm, WA 98597

“A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Board of Directors

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