



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

Published Monthly by the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, Inc.



Volume 54

September 2024

Number 9

Thoughts from the Board

By Kerry, W4SIG MARAC Secretary

This was an interesting month. Early in August, I had the pleasure of attending a huge Star Trek convention in Las Vegas (see pic below). It's amazing the time and effort people will pour into their hobbies for decades that they love so much, just like county hunters! Later in the month, it was getting my daughter settled into her dorm on her college campus. It's gonna take everything she has to commit to success over the next several years and achieve her goals. Then at the end of the month, I was proud to witness another daughter achieve her black belt in Tai Quan Dao, complete with breaking concrete blocks with her hands and planks of wood held high over her head using jump kicks! This culminates many years of focus. This all reminds me of the commitment and dedication it takes to chase the counties, especially when conditions are very challenging and mobile activity is below average. Sometimes it seems very tough to pull out those contacts on the bands that shouldn't be so difficult. Perseverance will get you through!

Active mobile on the roads this month were **KE4UP** who culminated his several-month-long journey from VA to Alaska and back. Wow, John ran a lot of counties! Yours truly,

W4SIG, ran some of the big counties in southern NV and CA. **NU0Q** had a nice trip through IA and MN, along with a special effort during the KS QSO Party. **N8HAM** did a nice run into NH and NY to run some rare counties there. **N4CD** headed out for some counties in western TX to try and finish them all up for **KOMAF**. **K8ZZ** was mobile, as usual, in IN, IL, and then over to OH to join

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K8MFO for a team effort in the OH QSO Party. **K6YEK** headed out for a cross-country trip. NF0N ran a bunch in **NE** and **SD**. The team of **KA9JA/KB9YVT** were out in WI. The KS QSO Party continued to be one of the best and most organized in the country with lots of activity from home stations and mobiles alike.

September will bring a LOT of State QSO Parties. Check out the column in this issue for more details. As mentioned above, conditions are not the best, but hang in there and hopefully you will snag some that you need this month!

Remember to sign up and plan to attend the National convention in October. Should be fun!!

Kerry W4SIG
MARAC Secretary

(That's me on the right, the Kingon on the left. Hi!)



2024 MARAC National Convention

By Kerry W4SIG

The 2024 MARAC National Convention is to be held on Oct 9-12 in **Bridgeport, West Virginia**! Please thank Alan-**W8OP**/Steve-**K8II**/Ed-**N8OYY** for volunteering to be co-hosts of this year's convention. Details can be found on the MARAC.org website under Events. Hotel reservations can be made now for the special rate. Convention registration is also now available. Mark your calendars to attend! See you there!



Prizes

We will also have a prize table. Each person attending should bring a door prize which can range from something you make (several beautiful afghans have been given away at conventions in the past!) to something you purchase. It need not be ham radio related. Some big hits in the past have been: Bottles of liquor/wine, gift certificates/cards, atomic clocks, coax, atlases, log books, tools, gas cards, etc. Remember we have many female friends attending so keep them in mind also.

Grand Prize – FT-891 100w Mobile Rig. HF/50M



2nd Main Prize Dell Inspiron 15 (3520) Laptop-15.6" Touchscreen, Windows 11, 16GB Memory, 1TB Solid State Drive, 12th Generation Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-1255U, 4-Cell Battery, 54Whr (Integrated)

Two (2) \$50 BP/Amoco gift cards

Two (2) 50 Exxon/Mobil gift cards

Ladies prize(s)

Have something you want to donate?

[Contact us](#). THANK YOU.

For prize drawings, must be present at the banquet, and eating dinner with the group.

Riding Along with an Experienced County Hunter Mobile

By Don, K8MFO

This year I wanted to get out and do some CW in the Ohio QSO Party. In the past I've stopped as I enter a new county to operate. Now I wanted to see what it was like to operate while in motion. Of course this would require a driver. After talking to some of the local drag racers, I was not satisfied. Someone suggested an experienced county hunter mobile. Now I've known Ed - **K8ZZ** for a long time. When asked he consented to drive out from Minnesota, assuring me that this would be FUN.

Ed arrived in Ohio a few days before the QSO Party, and we got to work preparing his RAV-4, which was already equipped with a heavy-duty screwdriver. We added one of my 40 meter Hamsticks on a magnetic base. Preparing the N1MM+ software special QSO Party module required a bit of learning and time. Eventually it was working "most of the time." We put my K3S in the backseat and decided to take a test drive the day before the contest. Everything seemed to go haywire! The software became troublesome, the K3S would shut down, and the SWR was tough to tame. We eventually figured it was an RF problem. Now Ed had

done a whole lot with grounding, and it made his front seat mobile operation very smooth. But, with cables hither and yon in the backseat, a lot of work needed to be done. When we hit the sack on Friday, all was well. On Saturday, the day of the QP, we went to breakfast and checked everything out in the parking lot at the restaurant. Everything ran perfectly, and we headed out for our opening county. About 10 miles later I noticed that my laptop had totally bit the dust! Now what? Well, I love to send CW so that is no problem. Hand logging would also have to do. Oh, and we couldn't find the connector convertor for the headphones, so we'd have to listen to the speaker, which was right behind Ed's head!

On the road, I learned a lot about a county hunter driver! First of all, he loves to take short cuts to destinations -- this usually means bumpy gravel roads, which put your dental fillings in peril, let alone making CW sending and particularly hand logging a real challenge! It also seemed to me that we were probably on the hunt for Dairy Queens in most of the counties that we entered! How could that happen? On one of the shortcuts, I really think I saw a sign advertising a Ben Franklin Festival! Ed, are we actually in PA? NO, Don, you're imagining things! I also noted that we were often traveling at about 20 MPH on some of the roads that were mostly used by livestock! Ed, do you think those cows are upset? NO, Don, they're used to county hunters. ED, that bull in front of us doesn't seem to be happy!

By the time we actually got to paved roads, the radio conditions had improved, but the two operators had sore ears from high volume CW coming from the radio speaker. There were a lot of HUHS and WHATS whenever we tried to communicate!

The road home consisted of additional bumps and jerks, but we continued to make contacts. I suppose the paper log will be able to be deciphered by government forensic experts, or handwriting specialists!

So, what's the bottom line? We had a blast of a time. No matter what problem was tossed at us, we calmly solved as best we could! Perhaps that's somewhat connected to our mutual Finnish heritage. There's a word that is common to Finns, which is SISU, something that has no precise English translation. Google it! Anyway, we believe in it! Our adventure featured two 80ish Finns, good friends, who worked together and created great memories.

73

Don K8MFO, one of the HUH/WHAT guys!

USACA AWARD STATUS

By Kerry W4SIG

Please be patient with us as we wrap up some details before making everything official. We will keep you updated as we progress.

Arkansas Odyssey

By Rick, AI5P



It's funny what comes to mind on a few dark winter nights. I thought about finishing my project of photographing all 85 courthouses in Arkansas (yes, 85... 10 counties have two county seats for various reasons). Then I thought about finishing running the state parks I hadn't done yet for the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. From those thoughts morphed the idea of running Arkansas' one National Park, 52 state parks, and all 75 counties. And to make it more interesting, I would do this only on CW to promote this mode and offer some nice prizes to increase interest. Bits and pieces came together and I advertised the idea and contest rules in the various county hunting, POTA, and QRZ sites.

By May, I was ready to start on the road. The actual operation was in seven phases and to match my other commitments and weather. The first date was May 9th and the last on June 28th. Unfortunately, the propagation gods didn't cooperate, and I tried to operate thru CMEs, blackouts, and just plain poor conditions most of the time. Bands used were 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 running about 80 watts with my long-suffering Icom-

706MKIIG. The Hustler resonators were on two separate masts – one holding 40 and 30, the other 20, 17, and 15. So, if you were wondering why I had some time lapses while switching bands, it was because I had to physically change the masts! Poor technique, I suppose, but it worked in the long run.

I quickly learned the POTA operators weren't too interested, for the most part - most of them only operate SSB or FT4/8. I did get a few here and there, but most of the contacts were with regular county hunting folks (mostly very familiar calls) or folks just tuning around the bands.

Arkansas' only national park - Hot Springs - was run on May 9th as well as the first state park - Lake Ouachita - both in Garland county. I tried to run the NW area of the state first, NE second, SE third, and the SW last. The last state park - Historic Washington- was run on June 28th, also being in the last county - Hempstead.

A total of 4,175 miles were driven with 1,416 CW contacts.
Band totals: 40 meters (183), 30 meters (449), 20 meters (499),
17 meters (198) and 15 meters (87).

After checking the logs, the following stations qualified for the various prizes:

1. Worked most counties: W0GXQ with 53
2. Second place most counties: K7REL with 45
3. Worked most national/state parks: NN9K with 32
4. Second place most national/state parks: NU0Q with 25
5. Canadian most counties: VA3UZ with 4
6. Second place Canadian most counties: VE3LDT with 2
7. European most counties: DL9USA with 5 (earliest contact)
8. Second place European most counties: SM2SUM with 5

Thanks to all the county hunters who chased me during this interesting trip around my home state. I was able to finish my photo gallery of all the county courthouses as well as see a number of new state parks.



AI5P/M



Rick AI5P

The Award Winners!



Jerry W0GXQ



Peter NN9K



Bill NU0Q

MARAC Awards Report

By Kerry, W4SIG

The following are the awards that were earned and processed for the last month. Note that some members do not apply for levels of awards (i.e. 1000, 2000, 3000, etc), but rather wait until they work all 3077 to apply. Thus, some may have worked all 3077, yet do not have the various lower level awards.

Awards Issued:		Awards Issued:	
Call	Award	Level	Cert. No.
K5GE	COUNTY CHALLENGE	27000	1
DL6KVA	USACA		1274
DL6KVA	USACA-ALL CW		168
NF0N	ALL 40 METERS	3000	4

Roadrunner Awards:		
Call	LC Count	Cert. No.
KE4UP	400	57
N8HAM	225	115

MARAC Openings

By Kerry W4SIG

There are numerous opportunities for YOU to get involved in MARAC. We currently have openings for Vice President, Awards Manager, and Legal Counsel. Contact any Board member for more details. We sure could use you!

Silent Keys

Our thoughts and prayers go out to these members and their families:



N3AO Carter Craigie, MARAC R-1761

W8POF Thomas Grove, MARAC R-4477

WB0CQO Joe Lindley, MARAC R- 101, USACA #182, Worked all counties 5 times, Bingo II, Masters Gold, 5 Star, YL Mobile, Polaris, RoadRunner 100 counties



New MARAC Members

By Kerry-W4SIG

MARAC would like to welcome the following New Members as well as those who have rejoined after a lapse of membership of two years or more. We want every member to

feel welcomed. If anyone has any questions, contact your District Director or one of the board members. We'll be glad to get you in touch with the proper person.

KQ4MZZ Linda Jackson, MARAC #4877, Sampson County NC
KD9LOK Greg DeLong, MARAC #4878, Brown County IN
KI5HAV Bryan McCammon, MARAC #4879, Pulaski County AR

Final Countdown

Kerry-W4SIG

The following MARAC Members need less than 10 counties for the “Whole Ball of Wax”, also known as WBOW for various awards. Let's give them a hand! If you have less than 10 to go in the entire country for any MARAC Award please send those needs to Kerry, **W4SIG**, for inclusion in this new monthly article. Please keep me updated as these lists dwindle so we have accurate info for mobiles that want to help you out.

K2MF 40 Meters – **HI**: Kalawao, **MT**: McCone

K2MF 30 Meters – **CA**: Alpine **HI**: Kalawao

W4SIG W Prefix - **NJ**: Hudson

W4SIG 1x3 Callsigns --- **AK**: 2nd, 3rd, 4th

W4SIG 20 CW – **GA**: Jasper Newton, **TN**: Cannon

W4SIG 20 SSB – **IA**: Lucas, **LA**: Bienville **TN**: Crockett

W4SIG 40M CW—**LA**: Avoyelles

W4SIG 40M SSB – **HI**: Kalawao, Maui, **NE**: Rock, **NJ**: Hudson, Middlesex, **NY**: Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, **OR**: Linn

W4SIG Bingo Cinco – **AK**: 1st, **HI**: Kalawao, **NJ**: Essex, Ocean, Warren, **NY**: Rockland, **PA**: Jefferson, Lancaster, Philadelphia, **WV**: Pocahontas

- W4SIG** 17M – **NY:** Albany, Tioga, **PA:** Bradford, Indiana, McKean, Northumberland, Wayne
- N4RS** 40M CW – **AK:** 2nd
- N5MLP** A Prefix – **LA:** Grant, Vermillion, Vernon **MS:** Issaquena **TN:** Hardeman, Houston, Marshall **VA:** Mathews **WA:** Garfield
- N5MLP** SSB – **GA:** Oconee, Thomas, **IL:** DeKalb, **NC:** Pamlico, **VA:** Orange
- N0KV** K Prefix – **ID:** Teton **NE:** Nance **SD:** Haakon **WV:** McDowell **WY:** Goshen
- N0KV** Mobile to Mobile – **KY:** Knott, Larue, Menifee **NC:** Catawba, Lee **VA:** Lunenburg, Mathews
- N0KV** Mobile Diamond – **PA:** Forest, McLean, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, **VA:** Amelia, Nottoway, **IL:** Menard, **ME:** Waldo, **NC:** Pender
- K4YT** Mobile to Mobile – **CA:** Marin, Nevada, **MD:** Calvert **OR:** Benton
- K4YT** A Prefix – **MS:** Issaquena, Sharkey **TN:** Perry **VA:** Craig
- K4YT** W Prefix – **GA:** Baker, **HI:** Kalawao **NY:** Lewis
- K4YT** 40 Meters – **HI:** Kalawao, **MT:** Carter, Golden Valley, Meagher, Mineral, Roosevelt
- K0MAF** USA-CA – **IA:** Cherokee, Emmet, **MN:** Pennington
- W4YDY** A Prefix – **MS:** Oktibbeha **OH:** Putnam **PA:** Philadelphia **VA:** Amelia
- W4YDY** W Prefix – **NY:** Essex, Montgomery, **PA:** Tioga **TX:** Dickens, Somervell **VA:** Floyd
- W4YDY** 1x2 Callsigns—**AL:** Perry, **AR:** Phillips, **FL:** Calhoun, **GA:** Montgomery, Wheeler, **IA:** Audubon, **TN:** Gibson, Meigs
- NU0Q** Master Gold – **AK:** 4th
- NU0Q** K Prefix – **GA:** Newton **NC:** Burke
- NU0Q** 4th Time – **HI:** Kalawao, **IN:** Scott, **NY:** Orleans

- K4CGY** USACA – **GA:** Quitman **ME:** Franklin **MN:** Lake of the Woods
- W9DC** K Prefix – **NE:** Webster
- W9DC** CW – **GA:** Effingham, Jones, **KY:** Woodford
- W9DC** 1x3 Callsigns – **GA:** Grady, **NC:** Clay, Jones, **OK:** Kiowa, **SD:** Haakon, **VA:** Nottaway
- W9DC:** Bingo III – **AR:** Madison, **KY:** Letcher, **NY:** Livingston, **TX:** Zavala, **VA:** Goochland
- NS2N** 20 Meters – **IN:** Marshall **KY:** Woodford **OH:** Shelby
- NS2N** CW III – **SC:** Laurens
- NS2N** Five Star – **NJ:** Monmouth
- N2IGW** USA-CA – **HI:** Kalawao
- N1API** N Prefix – **MA:** Nantucket, **MD:** St Marys, **MS:** Issaquena, **TN:** Moore
- N1API** W Prefix—**MD:** Worchester, **NC:** Warren, **NH:** Sullivan, **NY:** Richmond, Tioga, **VA:** Accomack, Buchanan, Northumberland, Page, Richmond
- N1API** 1x3 Callsigns—**MD:** Worcester, **NC:** Warren, **NH:** Sullivan, **NY:** Richmond, **VA:** Accomack, Buchanan, Northumberland, Richmond
- N8CIJ** 8th Time – **AK:** 2nd Dist, **IN:** Union, **MT:** Golden Valley, Treasure, **OR:** Gilliam
- N8CIJ** N Prefix – **TN:** Johnson, **WI:** Burnett
- N8CIJ** 1x3 Calls – **VA:** Charles City
- N8CIJ** K Prefix – **CO:** Hinsdale, **PA:** Forest
- KE3VV** Bingo IV – **NC:** Hertford
- KE3VV** 1x2 Calls – **MS:** Neshoba, **SD:** Turner

- W0GXQ** N Prefix – **VA:** Greene
- W0GXQ** All 20 Meters All CW – **IL:** Greene **IN:** Delaware
- W0SK** USACA – **HI:** Kalawao
- K0DEQ** All 20 Meters – **OH:** Lawrence
- W8OP** Bingo – **HI:** Maui, **KS:** Chase
- KC3X** CW 6th Time – **GA:** Heard, **KY:** Henderson, Letcher, **NJ:** Passaic, **OH:** Darke, Mercer **TN:** Houston, Trousdale, Unicoi, **TX:** Comanche, Duval, Neuces, Tyler
- K8II** USACA – **HI:** Kalawao
- K7REL** CW 6th Time – **TX:** Duvall, Tyler, Willacy
- LY5A** 5th Time – **CO:** Hinsdale, **GA:** Screven, **KY:** Menifee, **MN:** Fairbault, Waseca, **SD:** Edmunds, McPherson, **TX:** Mitchell, Stephens
- KC5P** USACA ALL CW – **GA:** Polk, Clark, **IN:** Hamilton
- N8HAM** 3rd Time (SSB Only)– **ID:** Butte, **MT:** Chouteau, **NJ:** Hunterdon, **NC:** Avery, Richmond
- WA3QNT** 5 Star – **HI:** Honolulu (3), **MT:** Lake (2), Sanders (2), **NJ:** Essex (1), Sussex (1), **NY:** Yates (3), **OH:** Lucas (1), **OR:** Benton (1), Linn (2), **PA:** Snyder (1)
- NF0N** 6th Time – **LA:** St James, **PA:** Montour, **TN:** Lake, Weakley, **TX:** Real
- N1QY** All CW – **GA:** Brantly, **VA:** Warren
- K5WAF** All CW – **TX:** Houston, Nacodoches, **KY:** Todd, **GA:** Crawford, **NY:** Greene
- K5WAF** All SSB – **WV:** Morgan

Remember to keep me updated as you scratch off any of these that you need. I want to keep this list up-to-date. Many have completed their awards from this column as mobiles are aware of the few you may have to finish them up. Always glad to add YOUR needs to this column!

Treasurer's Report

By Bill, K0DEQ

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

JUL 20 Through AUG 19, 2024

Beginning Account Balance		\$15,392.71
Income:		
Savings Account Interest	\$ 4.71	
Awards Income	23.00	
Misc Income		
Membership Income	174.62	
Logger Distribution Income		
Nat'l Convention	72.76	
Total Income		\$ 275.09
Expenses:		
Awards Expenses	\$ 465.01	
Misc. Expenses NOTE 1	877.00	
Contest expenses		
Office Expenses (Postage, etc.)		
Total expenses		\$1342.01
Net Income Less Expenses		(\$1066.92)
Cash Balance		\$14325.79
Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,735.90	
Savings Account Balance	12,589.89	
Total all accounts		\$14,325.79

NOTE 1 – premium on D &O insurance policy

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$5879.90, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$8445.89



Bill, K0DEQ, MARAC Treasurer

State QSO Parties

Courtesy WA7BNM

Here are the parties for this month:

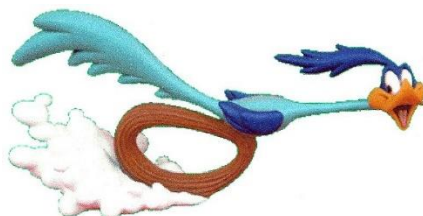
September

Tennessee	± Tennessee QSO Party	1700Z, Sep 1 to 0300Z, Sep 2, 2024
New Jersey	± New Jersey QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 21 to 0159Z, Sep 22, 2024
Texas	± Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 21 to 0200Z, Sep 22, 2024 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 22, 2024
Iowa	± Iowa QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 21 to 0200Z, Sep 22, 2024
New Hampshire	± New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 21 to 0400Z, Sep 22, 2024 and 1200Z-2200Z, Sep 22, 2024

Washington	+ Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 21 to 0700Z, Sep 22, 2024 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 22, 2024
Maine	+ Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 28 to 1200Z, Sep 29, 2024



The County Line ROADRUNNER



“A Roadrunner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25 th !



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Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Leadership Team

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Dues may also be paid via Pay-Pal and directed to treasurer@marac.org

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Immediate Past President: Vacant

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