



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

By Kerry, W4SIG MARAC Secretary

What a month! The MARAC National in Bridgeport brought many county hunters together for fun in the West Virginia mountains. At the official MARAC Board meeting, we adopted some significant rule changes, including **adopting the USACA first-first-time-around award!** Details on these further in this issue of the *RoadRunner*. When you mix this with all the mobile activity, with activations in 41 of the 50 states, it's been quite a month!

The mobile list this month was quite extensive. It included **K0AP** on a run across Arkansas down to the Louisiana bayou, **N8HAM** running some WV and MD, and **KA2LHO** engaging on a trip from FL up to PA with a pitstop at the convention. **WA9DLB** ran IL, OH, KY and WV. **N4CD** made the trek from TX to WV via AR, TN, KY. **AB7RW** was mobile all the way from WA across OR, UT, NV, WY, CO, NE, KS, IA, MO, IL, IN and WV. **KE4UP** ran from VA to the WV convention and then later headed up thru NJ, DE, MA, CT, NH, and checking out the fall colors in ME. The dynamic team of **NF0N/W0GXQ** headed to WV together running across IA, IL, IN, OH. **A15P** ran some in KY on his way to WV. **K3IMC** journeyed from GA up to WV activating TN and KY along the way. **N8OYY** activated some in WV. **W8OP** headed to NC and

VA. **K4YT** ran some in VA and flew up to ME for some activations. **WY0A** started a big trip to run all of SD and ND. **W4SIG** flew to NYC to run counties across NY, NJ, and PA on the way to WV. I also ran some in OR wine country later in the month. **K8ZZ** ran some in 17 counties this month including his roundabout way home from WV to MN via Florida! **K5GE** ran all the way from TX to WV, then

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teamed up with Ed to run a bunch in VA, the Carolinas, FL. AL, MS, and LA. If only all months were this busy!!

The club welcomes a new Vice President! Mike **WOMU** has volunteered to step into the vacant role of VP. Thanks, Mike, and thanks for your commitment to the club! For the first time in many months, we now have a full Board. We could still use some help a the role of Awards Manager if you are so inclined.

During the BOD meeting, we approved the minutes of our July meeting. Those can now be found on the marac.org website. Also during the meeting the Board made some cost-cutting measures which include making wooden plaques optional for the Annual award winners. While we want to recognize these top yearly winners, we want to make sure they have open wall space for that wood. Also, a new rule change might just make YOU eligible for a WBOW award! See the article below for an update on the ALL SSB award.

It's been an action-packed month. Please read carefully the articles below as they have a great impact upon our club and county hunting in general.

73s and Happy Hunting!

73

Kerry W4SIG
MARAC Secretary



2024 MARAC National Convention

By Kerry W4SIG

The 2024 MARAC National Convention is complete! There were lots of county hunters in Bridgeport, WV this month and all had a great time visiting with one another. So many counties were put out by the mobiles on their way to the convention, hopefully you snagged a few you needed. If only there wasn't a huge solar flare a few days prior that caused propagation to be very difficult at times. Nevertheless everyone that attended had a wonderful time! Many thanks to Steve, **K8II**, Alan, **W8OP**, and Ed, **N8OYY** for hosting this year's event. The banquet dinner was excellent! Steve, Alan, and Ed did a wonderful job making sure everything ran smoothly and everyone was comfortable. Excellent job!!

We had very nice presentations by Don, **K3IMC**, on hidden Logger tricks and news on updating our entire database. Also, plans are being made for a fully revamped MARAC website! Stay tuned! Rick, **AI5P**, held a very informative session on POTA as well. **K8II** hosted a CW Forum and a SSB Forum. Kerry, **W4SIG**, presented on how to take a plane and set up a rental car for effective mobile operation. He did a demonstration on Remote Ham Radio and informed the club members in attendance on the details of the USACA award.

Later in this issue, check out photos of many of the mobile setups of the attendees!

Congrats to Phil, **AB7RW**, for winning the new Dell Laptop and to Ed, **N8OYY**, for winning the Yaseu FT 891 HF rig! Everyone went away with something nice, courtesy of the door prizes, YL prizes, and half-and-half.

The next National will be in two years. We need a host....might it be you??? If you have any interest, please contact any Board member as we are glad to help with any questions you may have. This has been done over 50 times, so there's plenty of guidance available.

Convention Attendees



Back Row: WA9DLB, N8HAM, NF0N, NA8W, N8BGF, W0GXQ, W9DC, AB7RW, K4YT, AI5P, W5VS, K8OOK, N8IPG, K8II, N8OYY, Rhonda (xyl K8II), KE4UP

Middle Row: Helen (xyl WA9DLB), KC8WRP, W8OP, KA8JGP, K5GE, K8ZZ, N4CD, AC7UH, KI4JZW

Front Row: Diana (xyl W9DC), KJ8F, K3IMC, W4SIG

Convention YLs



Back row: Helen, xyl WA9DLB, Nancy, N8IPG xyl k8ook

Front row: Joan, KC8WRP xyl N8BGF / Pam, KA8JGP xyl NA8W / Sharon, KJ8F / Diana, xyl W9DC / Barbara, AC7UH xyl AB7RW / Rhonda, xyl K8II / Valerie, KI4JZW xyl KE4UP

USACA Award Holders



CW County Hunters



USACA AWARD STATUS !!!

By Kerry W4SIG

Well folks, it's here! After almost a year of hard work by your Board and other volunteers, **MARAC has adopted the USACA award that used to be hosted by CQ Magazine.**

This is a huge topic and the number one focus of the MARAC Board over the past year. As has been discussed extensively for 11 months, a void has been created with the demise of CQ Magazine. There currently is no organization sponsoring the USACA award. Brian, NX0X, the last USACA Award Custodian for CQ, has graciously continued to process any WBOW USACA Awards and offers to do so until he runs out of certificates for those who want to apply. No applications will be accepted for the lower endorsement levels.

This award is critical to bringing interest and new hams into county hunting. It is obvious to the MARAC Board that this void must be filled. After many months of planning and organizing, the Board feels now is the time for the move. We have communicated closely with both Brian, NX0X, and Don, K3IMC, our awards software creator. We have created our own updated MARAC version of the USACA Certificate, have cleared the process with Don, have written MARAC's version of the USACA Rules, and feel we are ready to officially proceed with adopting this award.

A special note of commendation should be mentioned to the entire MARAC Board for hundreds of hours planning for this move. Of special note is Ron, KF7ZN, Bill, K0DEQ, and Dave, KE3VV for creating the proposed official USACA rules. These have been reviewed by the Awards Committee with input being considered.

Thanks go to Paige, W0FLZ, for having the foresight to save a copy of the CQ Magazine award rules before they disappeared off the internet so that we could use them to craft our own version of the rules.

Also of special note is the creation of a county spreadsheet that was created by Barry, K2MF, to enable new county chasers to track and submit with their applications.

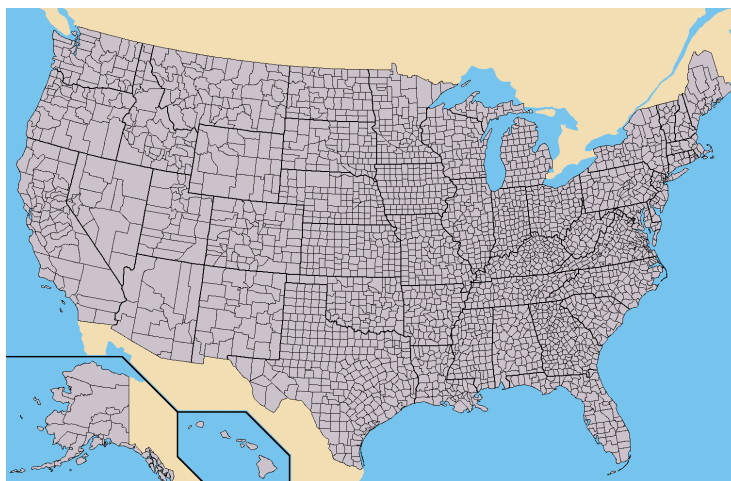
Thanks go out to Christopher Lott of Christopher Lott Studios for creating a beautiful certificate which has editable fields that can be used by Phil, the MARAC Awards Secretary, when processing these awards.

It is critical that ALL MARAC members help spread the word. We have no national publication, like CQ Magazine, for advertising. The Board plans to issue notices to contest groups, create an advertisement flier that can be sent via email to every LC-1 recipient, and to write an article for QST Magazine, with the hopes that they will agree to publish it, along with the history of our 50+ year old ham radio club.

The award rules are very similar to those of CQ Magazine with the exception that **NO WRITTEN CONFIRMATIONS (Like QSL cards, MRCs, etc) will be required.** . While we were reluctant to break from this long-standing tradition, we realize that this one requirement has become the top roadblock for many hams to chase this award. Times when a QSL card in the mail was a given conclusion are long gone. It has gotten to a point where getting written confirmations was harder than working the county. No other MARAC award requires written confirmation, so this will also align the award with all the rest of our awards. A copy of the new MARAC USACA certificate and a complete set of the new rules will be added to the website and will be attached at the bottom of this issue. Applications for all award levels will be accepted starting November 1, 2024.

NOTE:

If you have been working hard for years to get all the counties worked AND confirmed, you can still apply to Brian, **NX0X**, for the CQ Certificate as long as he still has blank ones available for use. Note he is only accepting applications for the 3077 All County award level.



All SSB Award Revision

By Kerry W4SIG

With the commencement of the MARAC USACA Award, all contacts, regardless of age will count toward this new award. Hence, the Board has decided to eliminate the start date of Feb 5, 2015 for the existing ALL SSB award as this would cause conflict between the two awards. So...with the newest release of Logger your Book for tracking the ALL SSB Award will automatically update to include all contacts in Logger for this award, regardless of date. Might you be close to completing this award now? Maybe you have already earned a WBOW! Check the data in your Logger program and apply now if you are eligible for this award. Congratulations!!

(NOTE: If you are applying for SSB II, III, etc, please give us some time to prepare for some unintended consequences regarding issuing award numbers)

Sun Reaches Maximum Phase in 11-Year Solar Cycle

By [Abbey Interrante](#)

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD

In a teleconference with reporters on Tuesday, representatives from NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the international Solar Cycle Prediction Panel announced that the Sun has reached its solar maximum period, which could continue for the next year.

The solar cycle is a natural cycle the Sun goes through as it transitions between low and high magnetic activity. Roughly every 11 years, at the height of the solar cycle, the Sun's magnetic poles flip — on Earth, that'd be like the North and South poles swapping places every decade — and the Sun transitions from being calm to an active and stormy state.

NASA and NOAA track sunspots to determine and predict the progress of the solar cycle — and ultimately, solar activity. [Sunspots](#) are cooler regions on the Sun caused by a concentration of magnetic field lines. Sunspots are the visible component of active regions, areas of intense and complex magnetic fields on the Sun that are the source of [solar eruptions](#).

“During solar maximum, the number of sunspots, and therefore, the amount of solar activity, increases,” said Jamie Favors, director, Space Weather Program at NASA Headquarters in Washington. “This increase in activity provides an exciting opportunity to learn about our closest star — but also causes real effects at Earth and throughout our solar system.”

Solar activity strongly influences conditions in space known as space weather. This can affect satellites and astronauts in space, as well as communications and navigation systems — such as radio and GPS — and power grids on Earth. When the Sun is most active, space weather events become more frequent. Solar activity has led to increased aurora visibility and impacts on satellites and infrastructure in recent months.

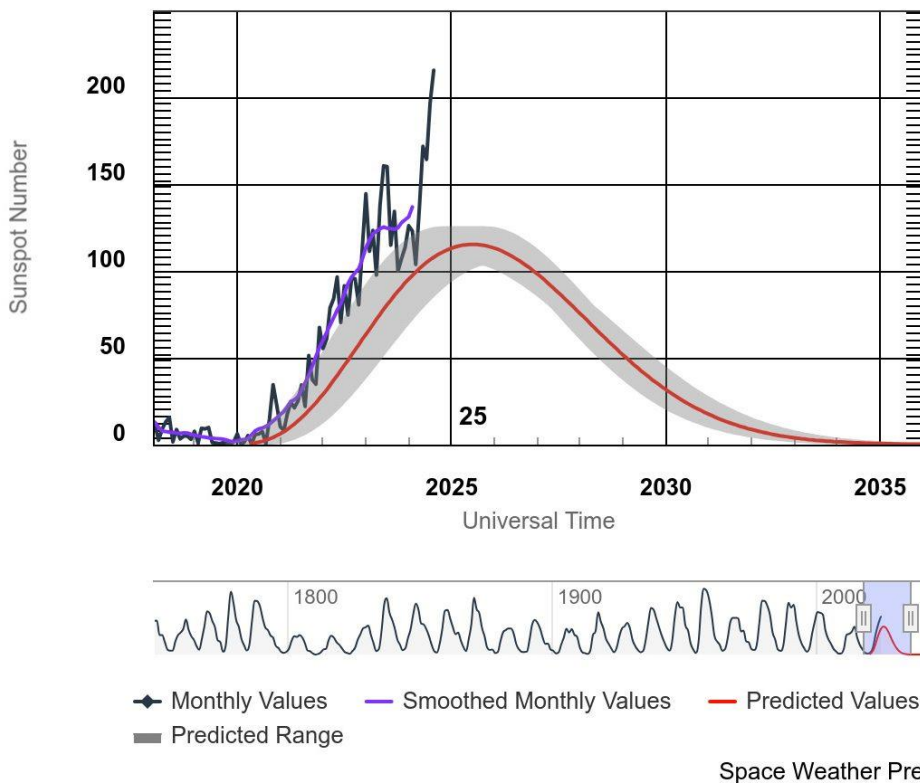
[During May 2024](#), a barrage of large solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) launched clouds of charged particles and magnetic fields toward Earth, creating the strongest geomagnetic storm at Earth in two decades — and possibly among the strongest displays of auroras on record in the past 500 years.

“This announcement doesn’t mean that this is the peak of solar activity we’ll see this solar cycle,” said Elsayed Talaat, director of space weather operations at NOAA. “While the Sun has reached the solar maximum period, the month that solar activity peaks on the Sun will not be identified for months or years.”

Scientists will not be able to determine the exact peak of this solar maximum period for many months because it’s only identifiable after they’ve tracked a consistent decline in solar activity after that peak. However, scientists have identified that the last two years on the Sun have been part of this active phase of the solar cycle, due to the consistently high number of sunspots during this period. Scientists anticipate that the maximum phase will last another year or so before the Sun enters the declining phase, which leads back to solar minimum. Since 1989, the Solar Cycle Prediction Panel — an international panel of experts sponsored by NASA and NOAA — has worked together to make their prediction for the next solar cycle.

Solar cycles have been tracked by astronomers since Galileo first observed sunspots in the 1600s. Each solar cycle is different — some cycles peak for larger and shorter amounts of time, and others have smaller peaks that last longer.

ISES Solar Cycle Sunspot Number Progression



“Solar Cycle 25 sunspot activity has slightly

exceeded expectations,” said Lisa Upton, co-chair of the Solar Cycle Prediction Panel and lead scientist at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. “However, despite seeing a few large storms, they aren’t larger than what we might expect during the maximum phase of the cycle.”

The most powerful

flare of the solar cycle so far was an [X9.0 on Oct. 3](#) (X-class denotes the most intense flares, while the number provides more information about its strength).

NOAA anticipates additional solar and geomagnetic storms during the current solar maximum period, leading to opportunities to spot auroras over the next several months, as well as potential technology impacts. Additionally, though less frequent, scientists often see fairly significant storms during the declining phase of the solar cycle.

NASA and NOAA are preparing for the future of space weather research and prediction. In December 2024, [NASA’s Parker Solar Probe](#) mission will make its closest-ever approach to the Sun, beating its own record of closest human-made object to the Sun. This will be the first of three planned approaches for Parker at this distance, helping researchers to understand space weather right at the source.

NASA is launching several missions over the next year that will help us better understand space weather and its impacts across the solar system.

Space weather predictions are critical for supporting the spacecraft and astronauts of NASA's Artemis campaign. Surveying this space environment is a vital part of understanding and mitigating astronaut exposure to space radiation.

NASA works as a research arm of the nation's space weather effort. To see how space weather can affect Earth, please visit NOAA's [Space Weather Prediction Center](#), the U.S. government's official source for space weather forecasts, watches, warnings, and alerts.

Prez doing the Rounds

By Kerry W4SIG

While our MARAC President, K8ZZ, travels the countryside he loves to stop by and spend time with other hams and county hunters. Featured this month is his visit with Brian, KG4CRJ. Brian is rapidly approaching finishing his 2nd time around.



K8ZZ
With KG4CRJ

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 award.

Awards Issued:		Awards Issued:	
Call	Award	Level	Cert. No.
N8HAM	ALL SSB	3077	10
KA9JAC	ALL SSB	3077	11
WA3QNT	ALL SSB	3077	12
N8BGF	ALL SSB	3077	13
N0KV	ALL SSB	3077	14
AJ5ZX	ALL SSB	3077	15
K0DEQ	ALL 20 METERS	3077	40
W4SIG	ALL W PREFIX	3077	16
W4SIG	ALL 17 METERS	3077	3
W4SIG	ALL 20 M ALL SSB	3077	41
KE4UP	RAN ALL MT		32
KE4UP	RAN ALL WY		31
KE4UP	RAN ALL OK		32
W4SIG	RAN ALL NJ		31
N0KV	COUNTY CHALLENGE	21000	4

Roadrunner Awards:		
Call	LC Count	Cert. No.
K2HVN	1025	15
KB6UF	2350	2
W4SIG	1225	10
W4SIG	1250	9
W4SIG	1275	9
W4SIG	1300	9
N8HAM	250	102
K5GE	875	19
W0GXQ	1625	4
K8ZZ	1925	3
AB7RW	325	75

MARAC Openings

By Kerry W4SIG

There are numerous opportunities for YOU to get involved in MARAC. We currently have openings for 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:



W9LHG John Lyon – MARAC#146, Former MARAC Secretary, President's Award, former MARAC Secretary

W5VD Henry Freiburger – MARAC#2512, USACA#49, Worked All Counties 5 Times, Bingo II



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.

K1CGI Victor Ouelette, USACA#574 has rejoined after over a decade absence

WA5DTK Barry Brewer, USACA#330 has rejoined after an 18 year absence

N5KVP Mary Brewer, MARAC#4880, Montgomery Cty, TX

KD8DEU Alan Van Brocklin, MARAC#4696 has rejoined after a prolonged absence



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 – **HI**: Kalawao
- W4SIG** 1x3 Callsigns --- **AK**: 2nd, 3rd, 4th
- W4SIG** 20 CW – **GA**: Jasper, **TN**: Cannon
- W4SIG** 40M CW—**LA**: Avoyelles
- W4SIG** 40M SSB – **HI**: Kalawao, Maui, **NE**: Rock **OR**: Linn
- W4SIG** Bingo Cinco – **AK**: 1st, **HI**: Kalawao
- 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 – **SD**: Haakon **WY**: Goshen
- N0KV** Mobile to Mobile – **GA**: Wheeler, **KY**: Knott, Larue, Meniffee **NC**: Catawba, Lee **VA**: Lunenburg, Mathews
- N0KV** Mobile Diamond – **ME**: Waldo
- N0KV** A Prefix – **CA**: Del Norte, **GA**: Bacon, Dodge, **KY**: Greenup, Knott, **LA**: West Feliciana, **MS**: Wilkinson, **SC**: Edgefield, **VA**: Mathews
- 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 **PA:** Tioga **TX:** Dickens, Somervell **VA:** Floyd
- W4YDY** 1x2 Callsigns—**AL:** Perry **GA:** Montgomery, Wheeler, **IA:** Audubon, **TN:** Gibson, Meigs
- NU0Q** K Prefix – **GA:** Newton
- NU0Q** N Prefix – **AL:** Coosa, **AR:** Randolph, Scott, **IA:** Obrien, **MS:** Grenada, Smith, **NY:** Wyoming, **OH:** Adams, **TN:** Moore, Van Buren
- NU0Q** 4th Time – **HI:** Kalawao
- NU0Q** 3rd Time CW – **HI:** Kalawao, **KY:** Hancock, Morgan, **MI:** Charlevoix, **NY:** Ontario, Wayne, **TX:** Bee, Liberty
- K4CGY** USACA – **GA:** Quitman **ME:** Franklin **MN:** Lake of the Woods
- W9DC** K Prefix – **NE:** Webster
- W9DC** CW – **GA:** Effingham, Jones
- W9DC** 1x3 Callsigns – **GA:** Grady, **NC:** Clay, Jones, **OK:** Kiowa, **SD:** Haakon, **VA:** Nottaway
- W9DC:** Bingo III – **AR:** Madison **TX:** Zavala, **VA:** Goochland
- 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, **VA**: Accomack, Buchanan, Northumberland
- N1API** CW – **NJ**: Camden, **NY**: Clinton, Essex, Lewis, Washington, **PA**: Mifflin
- 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** 17 Meters – **IL**: Carroll, Marion, Schuyler, Stephenson, **IN**: Carroll, Clark, **KY**: Johnson, Knox, **NY**: Niagara
- W0SK** USACA – **HI**: Kalawao
- W8OP** Bingo – **HI**: Maui, **KS**: Chase
- KC3X** CW 6th Time – **GA**: Heard, **KY**: Henderson **OH**: Mercer **TX**: Comanche, Duval
- 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
- N8HAM** 3rd Time (SSB Only)— **ID**: Butte, **MT**: Chouteau, **NC**: Avery

WA3QNT 5 Star – **HI**: Honolulu (3), **MT**: Lake (2), Sanders (2), **NY**: Yates (3), **OH**: Lucas (1), **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 – **KY**: Todd, **GA**: Crawford, **NY**: Greene

K5WAF All SSB – **WV**: Morgan

DL3DXX All CW 2nd Time – **MT**: Sanders, **TX**: Dimmit, Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Zapata, Zavala

K8MW BINGO – **KY**: Nicholas, **WY**: Park

K8MW CW II – **KS**: Pottawatomie, **KY**: Boone, **MA**: Nantucket, **NY**: Knigs, **TN**: Sevier, **TX**: Jim Hogg, Mason, Menard, Presidio, Webb, Zapata, **WA**: San Juan

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

Sept 20 Through Oct 19, 2024

Beginning Account Balance		\$14,525.51
Income:		
Savings Account Interest	\$	
Awards Income		
Misc Income		
Membership Income	203.58	
Logger Distribution Income	19.40	
Nat'l Convention	135.81	
Total Income		\$ 358.79

Expenses:

Awards Expenses	\$ 144.30
Misc. Expenses NOTE 1	35.00
Contest expenses	
Bank charge for checks	16.40
Refunds	
National Convention	679.07

Total expenses	\$ 874.77
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Net Income Less Expenses	(\$515.98)
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Cash Balance	\$14,009.53
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Checking Account Balance	\$ 2,419.64
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Savings Account Balance	11,589.89
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Total all accounts	\$14,009.53
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NOTE 1- Reimbursement to NF0N for renewal of club's ham license

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$5748.90, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$8,260.63

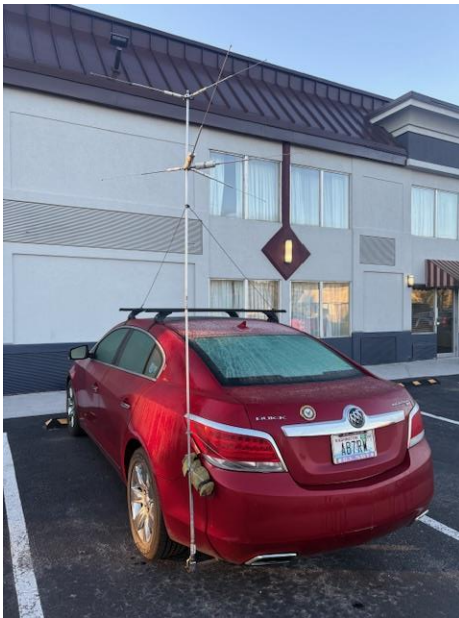


Bill, K0DEQ, MARAC Treasurer

A Look at Your Mobiles

By Kerry W4SIG

Here's a look at some of the mobile setups in attendance at the MARAC National!



AB7RW



NA8W

NF0N





KE4UP



WA9DLB



K5GE



N8HAM

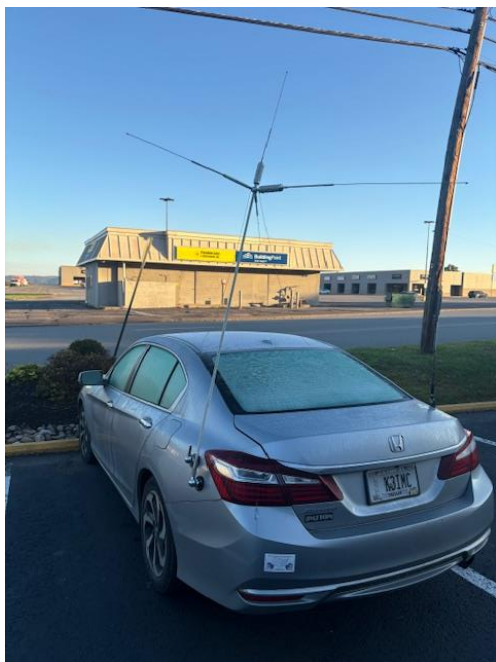


W4SIG



K811

K3IMC



W8OP



MARAC USACA Certificate

By Kerry W4SIG

This is a sample of the new MARAC version of the USA Certificate. While we wanted to honor the traditional CQ Magazine award certificate, some changes had to be made to make it our own.



MARAC USACA Award Rules

The Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) makes this award available to licensed amateurs (and SWLs on a heard basis) as follows:

A. Award Classes. The award is issued in seven different classes, each a separate achievement. If sufficient number of counties have been contacted, an applicant may apply for more than one class in the same application. Special endorsements will be provided for all one band or all one mode, if requested at the time of application.

Class	Number of counties required
USA 500	500
USA 1000	1000
USA 1500	1500
USA 2000	2000
USA 2500	2500
USA 3000	3000
USA 3077	ALL

B. Conditions

1. This award is available to all licensed amateurs everywhere in the world (and SWLs on a heard basis). The award is issued to an individual (or club) for all contacts made regardless of calls held, operating QTHs, or dates, except that all contacts must have been made from the same DXCC entity. The award is also available to SWLs on a heard basis but only if all contacts were heard from the same DXCC entity.

2. All contacts must be completed Valid Contacts by amateur radio.

3. Contacts using repeaters, satellites or phone patches are not valid for this award.

4. Contacts using remote station technology are permitted but only if: (a) All contacts are made over a direct RF path between the remote station and the station

contacted; (b) The remote station(s) is/are located in only one DXCC entity and this entity is the same as the QTH from which all non-remote contacts are made; and (c) The applicant was physically involved in each contact. Using computer software to complete a contact without the presence of the applicant is not allowed.

5. Submission of written or electronic confirmation of Valid Contacts is not required for this award. However, the MARAC Awards Secretary may, in his or her sole discretion, attempt to independently verify the bona fides of any contacts claimed and submitted for this award at any level and may determine whether to accept any contact as submitted or require further verification or submission of an additional contact for one or more claimed counties. The determination of the MARAC Awards Secretary is final and by submitting an application for this award, the applicant agrees to accept the decision of the MARAC Awards Secretary.

6. Use of Self-credit is not allowed for this award. (Self-credit is the ability for a mobile/portable operator to claim credit for their own needs in a county from which they transmit. Self-credit is allowed for many awards sponsored by MARAC, but Self-credit is NOT allowed for the United States of America County Award.)

7. Award levels and numbers previously awarded by CQ Magazine are valid for this award, and Valid Contacts used for those award levels may be applied to higher levels and numbers for this award. MARAC will not issue duplicate numbers for awards already received from CQ Magazine.

C. County Identity

1. The list of counties of the United States includes all of the Louisiana parishes, the four judicial districts of Alaska, and the counties of the other 48 states, including the 8 traditional counties in Connecticut. The official list of counties is subject to modification from time to time by the MARAC Board of Directors.

2. The applicant may assume that the QTH of a fixed station is as stated on qrz.com for that call sign unless the applicant has reason to believe the QTH may be different, in which case the applicant should contact the other station to ascertain the QTH at time of the QSO.

3. For Valid Contacts with a mobile or portable station, the applicant may (unless there is reason to believe otherwise) use the county indicated for that station at time of the QSO as reported on the <https://ch.w6rk.com> website or on similar websites used for spotting stations for county hunters.

4. If a Valid Contact is made with a station active in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program, the county in which the specified park is located may be used by the

applicant unless the specified park is located in more than one county in which case the applicant should contact the other station to ascertain the QTH at time of the QSO.

5. When a station is operating in an independent city, a national park, other federal enclave, or the District of Columbia, where the neighboring county lines do not extend into the area, then the contact with that station may be counted for any adjacent county. Only one adjacent county may be counted for the award.

D. Certificate available

1. A paper certificate suitable for framing is available by mail upon request and upon payment of the applicable fee.

2. In lieu of, or in addition to, a certificate provided by mail, an applicant may, upon request, receive a certificate in PDF form by email upon payment of the applicable fee.

E. Application

1. The application for this award must include the following:

- a. Current call sign of the applicant, and any former call signs used to make Valid Contacts for this award.
- b. Name of the applicant (as it will appear on the award certificate)
- c. Mailing address, email address (if applicable) and telephone number of the applicant.
- d. Date, time and call sign of the last Valid Contact used in the application
- e. A log of all Valid Contacts used in this application, including the date, time, band and mode with the call sign and county for each contact. The log must be sorted by state and county in each state in alphabetical order and include the total number of counties in each state.
- f. Identification of the award class requested, including any special endorsements requested.
- g. Request for either paper certificate or PDF certificate (or both).

2. The log may be a (legible) hand-written log, a computer printout or an email attachment. Digital logs may be in an ASCII or text file; Microsoft Works, Word, Excel or access 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. Handwritten logs will not be returned to the applicant.

3. The application should be submitted to the MARAC Awards Secretary by either:

a. Mail to: Phil Yasson, AB7RW, 13208 NE 5th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98685

b. Email to: pyasson@pacifier.com

4. Payment of the applicable fee (in US Dollars only) for each award requested:

a. For a paper certificate to be sent by mail or other shipping method the fee is \$25 for MARAC members and \$35 for non-MARAC members, plus (in each case) the shipping charge. The applicant should contact the MARAC Awards Secretary to ascertain the applicable shipping charge.

b. For a certificate in PDF form sent by email the fee is \$5 for MARAC members and \$15 for non-MARAC members.

c. The fee should be paid by either:

a. Check or money order (payable to MARAC) mailed to: Bill Morgan, 12012 County Road 3000, Rolla, MO 65401. Include with the payment a message containing the applicant's call sign and the award requested.

b. Via Pay Pal to: treasurer@marac.org. Include in the message the applicant's call sign and the award requested.

5. By submitting an application, the applicant certifies that all counties listed in the application were contacted by the applicant in accordance with the rules of this award, and that the applicant will abide by the decision of the Awards Secretary in administering and interpreting these rules and the award program in general.

F. Additional provisions

1. Except as modified in the foregoing, the general rules for all MARAC awards apply to this award. Those rules can be found at marac.org/awards/award-rules.pdf

2. This award, and all applicable rules, may be amended or rescinded by the Board of Directors of MARAC at any time and without prior notice.

3. Applications for this award will be accepted beginning November 1, 2024.

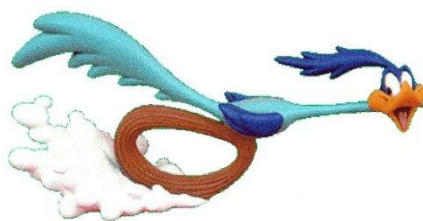
State QSO Parties

Courtesy WA7BNM

The State QSO Party season is over for 2024. They resume in February.



The County Line ROADRUNNER



“A Roadrunner Is A Very Fast Bird”

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Leadership Team

Board of Directors

President: Ed Eklin, K8ZZ
231-649-4747 President@marac.org

Vice-President: Mike Fatchett, W0MU
303-790-4611, w0mu@w0mu.com

Secretary: Kerry Long, W4SIG
901-331-1881, Secretary@marac.org

Treasurer: Bill Morgan, K0DEQ
573-364-1011 Treasurer@marac.org

<p>Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$15.00 per year, check or money order. Dues may also be paid via Pay-Pal and directed to treasurer@marac.org</p>

Great Lakes Director: Darl Deeds, NA8W
419-421-1533, GreatLakes@marac.org

North Central Director: Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
402-494-6070, NorthCentral@marac.org

Northeast Director: Al Kaiser, N1API
NorthEast@marac.org

South Central Director: Barry Mitchell, N0KV
303-841-6510, n0kv@arrl.net

Pacific Director: Paige Butler, W0FLZ
360-652-4680, Pacific@marac.org

Southeast Director: Dave Splitt, KE3VV
202-669-6630, SouthEast@marac.org

Immediate Past President: Vacant

Appointed Positions

Awards Manager: Vacant

Awards Secretary: Phil Yasson, AB7RW
360-213-8297, pyasson@pacifier.com

Historian: Mike Davis, N8MD
507-454-5081, avi8tormd@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Kerry Long, W4SIG
901-331-1881, kerrylong@comcast.net

Sunshine Coordinator: Pat Reiner, KM6QF
213-999-0100, lovedoxies@aol.com

IT Director: Donald Flynn, K3IMC
706-302-0725, k3imc@bellsouth.net

Webmaster: Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC
ka9jac@arrl.net

Custodian, Club Call: Mike Nickolaus, NF0N
712-223-3164, nf0n@arrl.net

Election Coordinator: Ron Wilcox, KF7ZN
208-369-0566, rglogan73@gmail.com

MARAC General Counsel: Vacant

Publicity & Advertising Coordinator: Paige Butler W0FLZ
W0FLZ62@gmail.com

MARAC Contest Coordinator: John Alman, WA4JA
931-486-3091, almonj@mindspring.com