



THE COUNTY LINE ROADRUNNER

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Thoughts from the Board

By Kerry, W4SIG MARAC Secretary

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around here. And if you are in certain parts of the country, you probably have the snow to prove it!

November was quite a busy month for MARAC. Check out the Awards Report for the month and you will be blown away with all the goals that club members have completed. We have a boatload of folks that have now earned the All SSB award. We have recipients of the Mobile Diamond, Masters Gold, Prefix, and Single Band awards. Several have completed USA-CA for the second and third times around. Of particular note is the astounding County Challenge level of **K8ZZ**, the 10 meter accomplishment of **N1API**, and the USA-CA First Time award going to Jack Hubby, **KOMAF**, after decades of county chasing. Congratulations to all!!!

Speaking of the All SSB Award, there were some unanticipated consequences of making a date change on this award. Thanks to **K3IMC**, **KE3VV**, and **AB7RW** for coming up with a prudent solution on how to handle SSB-II, SSB-III, etc applications. Please read Don's article in this issue for more important details.

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Active on the bands last month were some incredible mobile operations. Butch, **WY0A**, ran every county in ND and SD, and a bunch in NE. And he ran every county on 40,20,17, 15, 12, and 10 meters! There were over 1,000 spots posted last month for his operation. WOW!!! Add to this the tag-team operation of Jerry **W0GXQ** and Barry **N0KV** who did a major mobile run from

CO to AL and back. This team had over 800 spots posted this month. Absolutely amazing. We also had **KE4UP** running around in New England, **KB6UF** in LA, and **W8MP** trying out a new antenna on his RV journey from DE down to FL for some sunshine. Mark is starting his trip back north this week as he is pursuing operating from all 3077 US Counties.

Here's hoping everyone has a most-excellent December. May your holidays be wonderful, full of family and friends, some egg nog, and some new counties in the log! God Bless and Merry Christmas to all!

73 and Happy Hunting!

Kerry W4SIG
MARAC Secretary &
RoadRunner Editor



USA-SSB Award Changes

By Don K3IMC

The MARAC USA-SSB Award Rule Change Explained

SSB operators who have earned the USA-CA WBOW and multiple times awards should read this article. Recent changes to the USA-SSB Award rules by MARAC are significant, and it is now possible that you can apply for and receive one or more upper-level USA-SSB awards *without making any new contacts*.

At its October Meeting, the MARAC Board removed the start date for the USA-SSB Award (which had been February 15, 2015), thus allowing contacts made prior to that date to count toward the initial and higher-level awards. Prior to this change, only nine county hunters had achieved the USA-SSB award and interest in the award was low. After the rule change was announced, applications for the first-time USA-SSB award began arriving within a few days. In fact, by November 18th, a total of 28 USA-SSB I award applications had been approved, more than triple the pre-change number. As the word spreads about the change in start date, it is likely that even more applications will be received.

In addition, because MARAC rules allow all qualifying contacts made after the last contact for the previous level to count for subsequent levels of an award, many first-time USA-SSB awardees realized that they had sufficient contacts to apply for the USA-SSB II award as soon as they received the initial USA-SSB award. The same would be true for the USA-SSB III, as well as all higher levels.

This created an unusual problem. In normal circumstances, the first station to apply for and receive a new award would be the first station to complete all the work for the awards. Because that station was the first to complete all the work, which is unique achievement, that station would receive the "Number 1" (#1) sequence number. While all sequence numbers are important, the "#1" has always been a sought-after distinction. For any new award getting "#1" serves as a goal for many Ops. Often, the first person to finish the WBOW has put out extra effort to complete the award and make a last county contact. This effort has been recognized by awarding the "#1" sequence number to that individual. However, this is not the case with the USA-SSB II award.

Because eligibility for the USA-SSB II and higher levels is retrospective (based on contacts already made) most of the Ops who receive the first-time USA-SSB award have already made all of the contacts needed for USA-SSB II. The extra effort an Op who wanted #1 USA-SSB II award just doesn't apply where multiple Ops are virtually

eligible at the same time. Date of first application does not work because there is a lot of variability as to when an individual found out about the change of rules, when they realized that they could apply, and when they found time to apply for the award.

Because of the lack of competitive effort for sequent levels in the USA-SSB series, and the slow dissemination of the changes to the USA-SSB award rule, the Board recognized that the conventional method of awarding #1 to the first applicant is inappropriate. Thus, **for USA-SSB II, the #1 award will be shared by all Ops whose application is received no later than January 15, 2025.** The extension of the deadline for submittal of the USA-SSB II application ensures that all MARAC members are likely to know, understand, and react to the rule change. **Thirty-day application extensions will also apply to subsequence levels in the USA-SSB series.** For example, if the first valid application for the USA-SSB III is received on 1/16/2025, all valid applications received through February 15, 2025, will receive the #1 sequence number. This process will continue until April 15, 2025, when the special rule applicable to sequence #1 for higher levels will expire.

For all interested SSB Ops, the following procedure will help you get ready and participate in the shared #1 award. If you have not already done so, download the latest version of Logger (at least Version 2.10.38). This version includes implementation of the latest USA-SSB rules changes. Next, if you have not done so, recalculate the USA-SSB award. Then view your status in the Tracked Book Summary of the USA-SSB award. If the Summary shows that you have finished the USA-SSB award, complete the application for the USA-SSB on-line, and send the electronic copy of your USA-SSB log to AB7RW. Be sure to do this before January 15, 2025. Sometime after January 15, 2025, download the Database as directed by Logger. Logger will automatically create the USA-SSB II Logbook, which you should check and recalculate. Check the Tracked Book Summary to determine if it shows that you have completed the requirements for the USA-SSB II award. If you have, apply online like you did for the initial USA-SSB award. If you submit your application before the mid-February deadline, you will share "Number 1". Repeat this process as long as you have sequence awards completed until April 15.

If you have questions, you can call K3IMC.

New Member Spotlight JE2UFF

By Toshi JE2UFF

Hello, nice to meet you. I am JE2UFF (Toshi) and I will be joining this club this time. I was born in February 1961 and am 63 years old this year. I started amateur radio when I was 15 years old in high school and have been continuing ever since except for 2001-2004 when I was stationed in the Kingdom of Thailand for work.

I was stationed in Area 1 in 2014 and started EME at that time. I am currently QRVing on HF bands, 50MHz, and 432MHz EME. The conditions have been particularly good recently, so I have been QRVing almost every day, mainly on the high HF bands (12m, 10m).

Most of my recent operations are FT8 or FT4. I like digital modes, so in the past I was actively QRVing on RTTY and PSK31. Unlike the current FT8, the previous digital modes were mainly chat QSOs, so I was able to enjoy QSOs. That's why I still love RTTY and PSK31. I try to participate in RTTY contests every year.

The reason I joined your club this time is because collecting awards is one of my hobbies, and I heard from Mr. Brain (NX0N), who was the USA CA award manager, that your club took over the USA CA awards that CQ Magazine hosted before it went bankrupt.

Currently, I am also challenging the DXCC, DXCC Challenge, WAS, WAZ, and VUCC awards that ARRL supports in LoTW. I won my first USA CA award at 500, but it disappeared just before the 1000 endorsement, so I thought I would start over from scratch with your club. I'm thinking of getting one of these Loggers and challenging the USA CA awards again.

I look forward to your support.

Best Regards

de JE2UFF Toshimi Horie

From the Wall of W4YDY



Attached is a picture of my USACA certificate and a 3x4 foot world map above my operating position. The full map is not shown, but I have some rare cards on it including one from the first station heard on the space shuttle, W5LFL. One from KA8YD in Japan and one from KL7FLA on the true North Pole during the IGY (International Geophysical Year), Project 'Ice Skate' in 1957-58 by the Alaskan Air Command, USAF. It's on Wikipedia.

I also have a card on my web site from KC4AAA for the first PSK contact made from the South Pole. I just happen to hear them calling CQ and answered. That is my favorite. No one else can claim it!!!

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.
NF0N	USA-SSB	3077	16
N1API	USA-SSB	3077	17
W9DC	USA-SSB	3077	18
K7REL	USA-SSB	3077	19
W4YDY	USA-SSB	3077	20
KE3VV	USA-SSB	3077	21
N5MLP	USA-SSB	3077	22
NA8W	USA-SSB	3077	23
K2MF	USA-SSB	3077	24
W0EAR	USA-SSB	3077	25
KJ8F	USA-SSB	3077	26
K3IMC	USA-SSB	3077	27
NM1G	USA-SSB	3077	28

Roadrunner Awards:		
Call	LC Count	Cert. No.
KE4UP	425	53
K4YT	825	21
K4YT	850	20
K4YT	875	20
K4YT	900	18
K4YT	925	18
K4YT	950	17
K4YT	975	17
WY0A	450	51
WY0A	475	46
WY0A	500	44

K8MW	SINGLE BAND-20M	3077	42
WD40IN	SINGLE BAND-20M	3077	43
K7REL	USA-SSB II	3077	1
WY0A	RAN ALL MN		31
NM1G	ALL N PREFIX	3077	28
W9DC	MASTERS GOLD		80
NM1G	ALL A PREFIX	3077	11
N8HAM	RAN ALL WV		31
K8ZZ	COUNTY CHALLENGE	26000	2
K0DEQ	SINGLE BAND-30M	3000	2
K7REL	SINGLE BAND-30M	1000	4
K7REL	SINGLE BAND-30M	3077	10
AJ5ZX	USA-CA 3RD TIME	3077	264
N0KV	MOBILE DIAMOND		15
K5GE	ALL CW 3RD TIME		19
KB9YVT	USA-CA 2ND TIME		447
N1API	SINGLE BAND-10M	2000	1
K0DEQ	FIVE BAND	2000	5
K0MAF	USA-CA	3077	1276

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:



Thankfully, none to report this month.



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.

JE2UFF Toshi Horie, MARAC#4882, Shimada Shizuoka, Japan
JA1NLX Aki Yoshida, MARAC#4881, Machida Tokyo, Japan
N7LFX Larry Robinson, MARAC#4401, rejoins after an extended absence
N3RC Roger Cooper, MARAC#2861, rejoins after and extended 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 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
- 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:** Mineral, Roosevelt, **OR:** Wheeler
- K4YT** 30 Meters – **HI:** Kalawao, **KY:** Elliott, **NV:** Lander
- W4YDY** A Prefix – **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**: Worcester, **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
- W0GXQ** 1x2 Calls – **CA**: Santa Barbara, Solano, **GA**: Effingham, **LA**: St Charles, Washington, **MS**: Union, **NE**: Brown, Thurston
- 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, 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
- WB9CIF** CW – **AL**: Choctaw, **KY**: Grant, Hancock, Henry, Knott, Meniffee, Morgan, Pendelton, Trimble, **MI**: Charlevoix

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

Treasurer's Report

Oct 20 Through Nov 19, 2024

Beginning Account Balance		\$14,009.53
Income:		
Savings Account Interest	\$ 4.79	
Awards Income	45.70	
Misc Income		
Membership Income	254.59	
Logger Distribution Income	19.10	
Nat'l Convention	530.29	
Total Income		\$854.47
Expenses:		
Awards Expenses	\$ 147.83	
Misc. Expenses		
Contest expenses		
Refunds		
Total expenses		\$ 147.83
Net Income Less Expenses		\$706.64
Cash Balance		\$14,716.17
Checking Account Balance	\$ 3,121.49	
Savings Account Balance	11,594.68	
Total all accounts		\$14,716.17

From a balance sheet perspective, MARAC cash balance shown above should be discounted by \$5840.25, which is the amount of award fees pre-paid by members. After subtracting this amount, the true (spendable) Cash Balance is \$8875.92.



Bill, K0DEQ, MARAC Treasurer

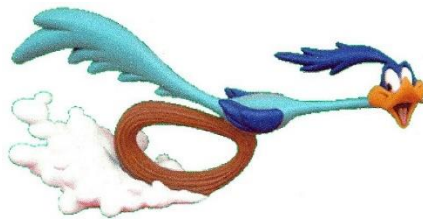
State QSO Parties

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

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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

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Immediate Past President: Vacant

Appointed Positions

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