AWARDS RULES

THE MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO AWARDS CLUB, Inc.

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General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards

Award Application Process

Formal or official award application forms are not required for MARAC Awards. Applicants may apply for awards using on-line forms on the MARAC web site (when available), email to the **Awards Secretary**, or other mail or delivery services. When appropriate, the **Awards Secretary** may accept a request for an award by telephone, as long as required contact or multiple contacts **Log** information is also received.

The applicant must submit the following to the MARAC **Awards Secretary**:

1. A **Log** of **Valid Contacts**;
2. The call sign of the applicant;
3. The applicant's phone number, mailing address, and (if applicable) email address;
4. The date of the last contact submitted for the award;
5. A request for a plaque, if applicable; and
6. The applicable fee for the requested certificate or plaque.

The **Log** may be a hand-written log, a computer printout, a computer diskette or CD, or an email attachment. Digital logs may be in an ASCII or text file; Microsoft Works, Word, Excel, or Access file; Kwiklog, KwikWin, MARAC Logger, or other computer logging program output file that does not require the **Awards Secretary** to have the application program in order to read the file; or any other format acceptable to the **Awards Secretary**.

Printed logs, diskettes, or CD logs will only be returned if accompanied by sufficient return postage or delivery fee. Please check with the **Awards Secretary** to determine the current cost of return postage or delivery fee.

Under Section 5.1(d)(10) of the MARAC Bylaws, each person who applies for a MARAC Award stipulates to having observed all MARAC rules, being bound by the MARAC Awards rules, and being bound by the decisions of the Board of Directors and the **Awards Committee**.

Awards Committee

The **Awards Committee** was established by the MARAC Board of Directors to act as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors. The **Awards Committee** provides recommendations on the awards program and the rules for, including recommendations on the adoption of new awards and revisions to existing awards. The **Awards Manager** acts as the chair of the **Awards Committee** and forwards the recommendations of the Committee to the MARAC Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must approve all new awards and modifications to existing awards or award rules.

The **Awards Committee** consists of one or more MARAC members from each of the six districts represented on the Board of Directors. The **Awards Manager** appoints the members of the **Awards Committee** in consultation with each District Director. Each Member serves on the Committee for a term of one year and may be re-appointed for additional terms by the **Awards Manager**.

The MARAC Board of Directors or the **Awards Manager** may remove any member of the **Awards Committee** at any time.

Each member of the **Awards Committee** must maintain the following qualifications to serve on the Committee:

1. Be an active member in good standing of MARAC;
2. Have access to Microsoft Word and email on the Internet;
3. Be familiar with existing MARAC Awards and rules; and
4. Actively participate in the activities of the **Awards Committee**.

Award Date (see Starting Over)

The date of a MARAC Award is the UTC date of the last contact completed to qualify for the award. An individual award certificate or plaque (such as a **Last County** plaque) may contain the actual date of the contact for which the award is given.

Awards – Effective Date of New Awards

For all new MARAC awards that require earning a prior award as a prerequisite to the new award, the new award becomes effective on the date the new award is approved by the MARAC Board of Directors. **Valid Contacts** for these new awards must be made after the effective date of the new award.

Award Levels

Some MARAC Awards are available in stages reflecting incremental levels of achievement. The achievement of each **Award Level** is recognized by the issuance of a certificate; endorsement plate, plaque; or trophy. The rules for individual awards establish the **Award Level** criteria and type of recognition.

Awards Manager

Under Section 5.1 of the Bylaws of the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC), the President of MARAC appoints an **Awards Manager** from among the regular members of MARAC. The appointment is subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. The **Awards Manager** administers the MARAC Awards program in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors.

The **Awards Manager** serves as the chair of the Awards Committee.

Band

A segment of radio frequencies allocated by the FCC to the amateur service. Unless specified in a particular award, a **Valid Contact** may be made on any **Band**.

Big Rig

A large truck consisting of a tractor unit that is capable of pulling a cargo trailer and is being driven by an operator holding a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) rated for the rig being operated (for a rig rated at 26001 GWD or more).

A **Big Rig** is also sometimes referred to as a "Semi" or "18- wheeler." To qualify as a **Big Rig** for MARAC Awards, the tractor must have at least 10 wheels with tires touching the ground (or the equivalent using wide-base tires). If a trailer is attached, the trailer may be either loaded or unloaded.

Note: The definition of **Big Rig** does not include RV's, dump trucks, 5th-wheels, tow trucks, buses, or panel/delivery trucks.

Club Stations

A **Club Station** may apply for and receive MARAC awards. Applications for awards for a **Club Station** must be filed by the trustee of the **Club Station**. Contacts with a **Club Station** are **Valid Contacts** for all MARAC awards except those awards that require contacts with operators who have earned individual achievement MARAC awards, such as the Master Gold or 5-Star awards. For these awards, the operator must use his or her personal call sign to make a **Valid Contact**.

Confirmation of Contacts

Contacts used for MARAC Awards do not require confirmation. Therefore, all MARAC Awards can be achieved without the exchange of QSL cards, MRC's, or eQSL's.

Contest Contacts

Contacts made while operating in a contest or QSO party may be used for MARAC Awards. If the contest or QSO party rules regarding contacts or operation differ from the rules for MARAC Awards, only those contacts that conform to MARAC rules may be used for MARAC Awards.

County Line (see Wet County Line)

A **County Line** is the legally defined boundary between two **USA Counties**. A marker or sign usually identifies this boundary; however, some **County Line** markers are located close to, but not on, the actual surveyed boundary. For purposes of contacts for MARAC Awards, the official government **County Line** marker or sign is deemed to be on the **County Line** boundary except where there is a **Wet County Line**.

A mobile may (but is not required to) use a more accurate method of determining the location of a County Line boundary, such as a survey map or global positioning system (GPS). On secondary roadways or country lanes, other **County Line** markers may be found, such as a livestock gate, cattle guard, or a monument placed in the fence line. A change in the composition of the roadway surface may also be an indication of a **County Line** boundary. When no other means of identifying a **County Line** is available, these markers may be used.

County Line Contacts

A stationary mobile may operate on a **County Line** and contacts with the mobile can be used as credit for both counties. Some part of the vehicle used for the mobile contact must be located in each county on the **County Line**.

Only one **County Line** at a time can be run for MARAC Awards. If the mobile is operating from the intersection of three or more **USA Counties**, only two counties at a time may be counted for the same contact.

Disqualification

Under Section 5.1(d)(8) of the MARAC Bylaws, "Evidence of disruptive operating practices or inappropriate conduct in any aspect of MARAC participation may lead to disqualification from all participation in the program." Based on credible evidence, the MARAC Board of Directors determines whether disqualification will be imposed on an operator and the length of disqualification. Actions that may lead to disqualification include, but are not limited to:

1. The submission of forged or altered confirmations or applications;
2. Transmitting from a location other than the one specified during the operation;
3. Participating in activities that create an unfavorable impression of amateur radio, such as malicious attempts to cause disruption or disaccreditation of an operation;
4. Blatant inequities in confirmation (QSL/MRC) procedures and continued refusal to issue QSL/MRCs.

District of Columbia

(see Federal Parks, Independent Cities, and Other Enclaves)

A contact with a mobile in the **District of Columbia** may be counted as Montgomery or Prince George's County, Maryland, or Arlington County, Virginia.

DX Contact

A **Valid Contact** with a licensed amateur radio operator located in a foreign country or ARRL DX entity other than the United States, Hawaii, or Alaska.

Eligibility for MARAC Awards

MARAC Awards are available to any licensed amateur radio operator anywhere in the world except that the County Hunter of the Year, Mobile Assist of the Year, Mobile Team of the Year, and Mobile of the Year Awards may only be received by a member of MARAC, and rules for other specific awards may have limitations on eligibility for that award. **Valid Contacts** using any combination of mobile, portable,

or fixed operation and various modes of operation may qualify for MARAC Awards, although some awards or endorsements require that all contacts be made using a single **Mode** or type of operation.

Endorsements

Any MARAC award that can be accomplished by making contacts on a single Band or using a single **Mode** may be endorsed for the single **Band** or **Mode** (or both) when all of the contacts used for the award use that **Band** or **Mode** (or both). For example, an award might be endorsed "Worked all on 20 Meters" or "Worked all using SSB" or “Worked all on 20 Meter SSB.”

Endorsements are also available for specific methods of working the Valid Contacts for an award. The following endorsements are available on most awards (when appropriate):

All Mobile	All One Band	QRP
All Mobile to Mobile	All One Band and Mode	All Confirmed
All One Mode	No Relays	

Other endorsements may be available as stated in the rules for an individual award.

Federal Parks, Independent Cities, and Other Enclaves

When a station is operating in an independent city, a national park or other federal enclave, or the **District of Columbia** where the neighboring county lines do not extend into the area, the contact with that station may be counted for any adjacent county. Only one adjacent county may be counted for any award. For example, a contact with a mobile in Richmond, Virginia, may be counted as either Chesterfield County or Henrico County for an award. If a contact with a station in Richmond is used for Chesterfield County, then the contact used for Henrico County must be with a station actually located in Henrico County.

Fees

Unless otherwise specified in the rules for a specific MARAC award, the Fees for each MARAC award are as follows (effective January 1, 2023):

Award Type/Description:	**Cost of Item (U. S. Dollars)**	
	Members:	**Non-Members:**
Paper Certificate	3	8
Plaque	55	70
Car with plate	35	50
Car with plaque	45	60

All fees are subject to change by the MARAC Board of Directors. A list of all awards issued each month is published in the MARAC Roadrunner. Individual LC-1 Awards are posted on-line in the MARAC database. Other awards are posted on the MARAC web site home page.

Fixed or Portable Operation

Any radio transmission from a location that is not a **Mobile Operation**. As long as a vehicle is capable of being moved under its own power, is not attached to an external antenna system, and is not using commercial electric power or other external source of power, it is a mobile rather than a **Fixed** or **Portable Operation**.

However, if a trailer, camper, or similar non-powered vehicle is separated from the towing vehicle, an operation from that vehicle is fixed or portable.

Independent Cities

(see Federal Parks, Independent Cities, and Other Enclaves)

Carson City, Nevada is an **Independent City** that is not part of any adjacent county. One of the adjacent Nevada counties (Douglas, Lyon, Story, or Washoe) may be used for a **Valid Contact** with a station in Carson City. On the other hand, Baltimore City is a separate county from Baltimore County in Maryland.

There are 42 **Independent Cities** in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The following list will be modified automatically on the effective date of a change in the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia adding or deleting an **Independent City**:

Virginia Independent Cities and Adjacent Counties

Alexandria	Arlington or Fairfax	Lynchburg	Amherst, Bedford, or Campbell
Bristol	Washington	Manassas	Prince William
Buena Vista	Rockbridge	Manassas Park	Prince William
Charlottesville	Albemarle	Martinsville	Henry
Chesapeake	Isle of Wight	Newport News	York
Clifton Forge	Alleghany	Norfolk	Isle of Wight
Colonial Heights	Chesterfield or Prince George	Norton	Wise
Covington	Alleghany	Petersburg	Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, or Prince George
Danville	Pittsylvania	Poquoson	York
Emporia	Greensville	Portsmouth	Isle of Wight

Fairfax	Fairfax	Radford	Montgomery
Falls Church	Fairfax	Richmond	Chesterfield or Henrico
Fort Monroe	York	Roanoke	Roanoke
Franklin	Southampton	Salem	Roanoke
Fredericksburg	Spotsylvania	South Boston	Halifax
Galax	Carroll or Grayson	Staunton	Augusta
Hampton	York	Suffolk	Isle of Wight or Southampton
Harrisonburg	Rockingham	Virginia Beach	Isle of Wight
Hopewell	Prince George	Waynesboro	Augusta
Lexington	Rockbridge	Williamsburg	James City Winchester Frederick

Last County

The final county worked in a State (or USA) for an award. Among county hunters, it is a generally accepted practice to reward the operator who gives you the **Last County** for a State with a **Last County** Certificate. The operator who gives you the last county in the USA (also called the "**Last County** for the Whole Ball of Wax") can be rewarded with a **Last County** plaque.

Nothing in the rules prohibits giving more than one **Last County** award. For example, if you work a mobile team for a **Last County**, you could give a certificate to one or both operators. Also, if you have to re-work a last county for a confirmation, it is suggested that you give a **Last County** award to the operator who actually confirms the contact.

Log (see Valid Contact)

The log data generally required for all MARAC Awards are the following:

1. Call sign of the station or operator worked;
2. Date; and
3. State and county worked.

Some awards may require additional information (such as whether the station worked was mobile or fixed/portable) or that the **Band** or **Mode** be specified (such as an **Endorsement** for a single **Band** or **Mode**).

Any required information for a particular award that is not contained in your **Log** should be included in the application or in a cover email or note to the **Awards Secretary**. Although a **Signal Report** or other information exchange is required to be a part of each **Valid Contact**, it is not necessary to include this exchange in the log submitted for an award.

Mobile Operation

Making contacts using a radio in or on a movable vehicle is a **Mobile Operation**. The vehicle does not have to be in motion. The radio must be powered by the vehicle or other power source that is contained in the vehicle and which is independent of all commercial or other outside power sources.

The vehicle must be capable of movement without having to disconnect any wiring or antennas in order to move to another location. Examples of vehicles that are capable of **Mobile Operation** include automobiles, trucks, RV's, trains, bicycles, airplanes, and buses.

Mode

Any **Mode** of operation that is legal for amateur operation under the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may be used for contacts for MARAC Awards. The **Modes** of operation that may be used for MARAC awards and endorsements include SSB, CW, and Digital Modes. Digital **Modes** include RTTY, Baudot, ASCII, AMTOR, PSK, packet, and other digital operations authorized by the FCC (other than CW and digital voice).

Net Contacts

All contacts made on a net must meet the contact criteria required for the MARAC award for which those contacts are used.

Net Control - Hours of Service

For purposes of MARAC awards, credit for service as a **Net Control Station (NCS)** or **Assistant Net Control (ANCS)** can be earned for assisting mobile stations to make contacts with other county hunters on MARAC-sponsored nets. **NCS** and **ANCS** time may not be claimed for non-MARAC sponsored nets.

A log must be maintained by the **NCS** or **ANCS** that specifies the date, start time of net operation, and hours of operation (to the nearest 1/10 of an hour actually worked as **NCS** or **ANCS**). Other information supporting the time of service claimed, such as call signs of mobiles run and the names of counties run, is optional. This log must be submitted with any application for an award where credit for **NCS** or **ANCS** is claimed. When applying for an award, the applicant must also submit a summary of the log showing the total number of hours or service as **NCS** and **ANCS** claimed.

New Awards – Proposed Awards

The MARAC Awards program attempts to further the goals of effective mobile amateur radio operation. To suggest a new award or a modification to an existing award or MARAC award rule, please submit your ideas in writing to the **Awards Manager**, a member of the **Awards Committee**, your MARAC District Director, or any MARAC officer. Your written suggestion should address the following

1. A brief description of your idea for an award or modification. Include a draft of the new award rules or suggested modifications.

2. Why should MARAC adopt an award based on your idea or adopt the modification you suggest? Some possible questions that your proposal for a new award might answer are: (a) How will your proposed award or modification promote effective and efficient **Mobile Operation**?

   (b) How difficult is the award to achieve? Is it reasonably attainable by more than a few county hunters? Should the award be earned in levels?

   (c) Are any county hunters already making the kinds of contacts that would be required to earn this award?

3. What do you suggest as a formal name or title for the award?

If you have any ideas for a certificate for the proposed award, you may provide a sketch or other artwork. A copy of the **Proposed Award** should be sent to your District Director.

All suggestions for new awards and changes to current awards or rules are subject to review and modification by the **Awards Committee** and require final approval by the MARAC Board of Directors.

Portable and Remote Operation (see Fixed or Portable Operation)

Operation from a non-mobile, temporary fixed location. This includes battery-powered operation that is not in a vehicle. Remote operation (remote control of a distant station, including use of the internet to communicate with the remote station, or other indirect operation) is allowed for MARAC awards.

QRP

Low-power operation. For purposes of MARAC Awards, a **Valid Contact** using **QRP** requires that one operator in the two-way communication be using a **QRP** power level. Only HF frequency contacts may be used for **QRP** contacts. For MARAC Awards, the fixed, portable, or mobile **QRP** station must be using five (5) watts output or less.

Replacement Certificates and Plaques

Replacement certificates will be available if you provide the required information and send it along with the basic award **Fee** for that certificate or plaque.

Robotic or Unattended Operation

All contacts for MARAC awards require that the operator be physically involved in each and every contact, without the aid of software that would otherwise make the contacts without the presence of the operator.

Self-credit

Self-credit is the ability for a mobile/portable operator to claim credit for their own needs in a county (stars, prefix (if applicable), Bingo Cinco credits, bands, modes, etc.) from which they transmit as a

reward for having made the effort to travel to that county and make contacts available to other operators. They must make at least one valid HF contact with another operator to claim any credits they have for themselves and for some awards both operators involved in the contact must have certain qualifying credentials (e.g., be a Bingo award holder, be a Master Gold award holder, etc.) for both operators to claim self-credit.

The capability to claim **Self-credit** on 14 specific awards was added after the rules had been in place for those awards beginning in 2017. The MARAC Board of Directors meeting minutes for a meeting held on February 15, 2017 are published in the March, 2017 RoadRunner issue (available on the MARAC website).

Use of **Self-credit** features is optional. Some operators do not wish to use **Self-credit** and are not required to implement that option. Logger 2 provides settings options where each user can specify whether or not they wish to use **Self-credit** features of two different groups of awards. One group is the Bingo, Master Gold, Master Platinum, Mobile Diamond, and Double Diamond awards while the other group is a list of awards approved for **Self-credit** since 2017.

All MARAC Awards that allow for credit or **Self-credit** for transmission from a county require that the operator be physically located in that county.

Awards that have contained **Self-credit** capability since their inception include:

- Master Gold Award
- Master Platinum Award
- Mobile Diamond Award
- Double Diamond Award

Note: The requirements to be able to claim **Self-credit** for the above awards typically requires both operators involved in a contact to have certain credentials before **Self-credit** can be claimed. Just making a contact with another operator does not qualify for **Self-credit** unless those specific additional requirements are met. See each award's description for details on requirements.

Awards that **Self-credit** options were added to after their inception (in 2017 or later) include:

1. Worked All USA Counties Award (2nd time to Nth time)
2. USA-CW Award
3. USA-SSB Award
4. USA – Digital Award
5. YL/OM Team Award
6. YL Mobile Award
7. Five Star Award

8. Star XX Award (Twenty Star)
9. USA – Single Band Award
10. 5 Band Counties (Added in 2022, but start date made same as other awards) 11. USA Prefix Award (USA-PA)
12. USA – Call Sign Combo Award
13. Bingo – The Master County Hunter Award
14. Bingo Cinco Award

All contacts in the list above must have been made after February 15,2017.

Note: the wording on these awards is not identical and the specific requirements for each different award must be met for self-credit to be counted on that award.

Note: This list of awards was accurate in January, 2023. If in the future some discrepancy is determined to exist between the list above and the specific rules for the awards named above (or other awards), the rule details of the exact award elsewhere in this document take precedence.

Stars

A station has one **Star** for each time that station successfully completes all USA counties. The first **Star** is for receiving either the CQ Magazine USA County Award or the MARAC United States County Award (USACA). An additional **Star** is earned for each time the station receives a MARAC Worked All USA Counties (multiple times) award for working all USA Counties.

Starting Over

For sequential awards, such as working all **USA Counties** multiple times, all **Valid Contacts** for the subsequent award (the next award in the series) must be made on or after the **Award Date**.

Team Contact

A Team consists of two mobile operators transmitting from the same vehicle. Each Team member must hold a current amateur radio operator license that is valid for the operation on the **Band** and **Mode** used for the contact. A **Valid Contact** with a Team must include an exchange of information with each Team member, and the call sign of both Team members must be logged.

Transmitted Counties

Transmitted Counties are the counties where a mobile operator is located when making a **Valid Contact**. When the mobile operator is located on a **County Line**, both of the counties count as **Transmitted Counties**. For purposes of different awards, **Valid Contacts** made on multiple **Bands** and **Modes** each count as a **Transmitted County**.

USA Counties

The list of counties of the United States that are used for certifying all applications for MARAC Awards includes all of the Louisiana parishes, the judicial districts of Alaska, and the counties of the other 48 states. When a county, parish, or judicial district is added or removed, the official MARAC **USA Counties** list will be modified on the effective date of the change stated in the law effecting the change. The official list is subject to approval by the MARAC Board of Directors.

Valid Contact

MARAC Awards require valid two-way radio contacts with other licensed amateur radio stations. A **Valid Contact** must be made in accordance with all applicable rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) relating to amateur radio (such as Mode, licensing, and operating procedures). A **Valid Contact** requires an exchange of information between two amateurs.

Contacts made through "repeater" devices or any other power relay methods (other than satellites) are not valid for MARAC Awards. When using a remote operation for making **Valid Contact**s, the distant station must be located in the same country or ARRL DXCC entity as the controlling station.

An Award 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 directly contact the other station to ascertain the QTH for the QSO.

In the case of 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.

In the case of contacts 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; however, if the specified park is located in more than one county, the applicant should directly contact the other station to ascertain the correct county for the QSO.

Wet County Line

A **County Line** boundary may be a river, lake, water reservoir, creek, brook, stream, or other watercourse, including a dry riverbed or arroyo. This type of county boundary is a **Wet County Line**. As long as a **Wet County Line** can be run safely, it may be run using the same requirements as any other **County Line**.

YL-OM Team

To be a **Valid Contact** for the MARAC **YL-OM Team** Award, the **Team** must include a female (YL) operator and a male (OM) operator who each hold a current amateur radio operator license that is valid for the operation on the amateur frequency and mode used for the contact. The YL and OM operators do not have to be married or otherwise related. Both YL-OM Team members must be operating from the

same county and using the same radio. You must make a Valid Contact with each team member individually and the call sign of each operator must be included in your Log.

MARAC Awards

Big Rig Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators who are driving or riding in **Big Rigs**.

SPECIAL RULES: Big Rig is defined in General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 500 counties

New Certificates for 1000, 1500, and 2000 counties

Plaque for 2500 counties

Endorsement Plates for 2600, 2700, 2800, 2900, and 3000 counties Special Plate

for 3065+ USA counties

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees. The standard certificate fees also apply to endorsement plates for each level.

Bingo – The Master County Hunter Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with stations that match the first letter of the county in which the stations are operating with one of the letters in the suffix of their amateur Call Sign.

SPECIAL RULES: In addition to matching the first letter of the county name (Cobb, IL) with one of the letters in the call sign suffix (W9ABC, KA2CBA), there are several special rules that apply to dual letter call signs and short call signs, as well as two wild cards:

- **Short Call Signs:** Any letter that matches the first letter of the county name may be used from 1X1, 2x1, 1x2, or 2x2 call signs. This includes the letters in the prefix. For example, W1AB is good for Bingo in counties that begin with W or A or B. KB3DC is good for Bingo in counties that begin with K, B, C, or D.

- **Repeated Letter Call Signs:** If a letter is repeated in a call sign (W1MMM, W2MMA, W3MAM, or KM4M), the letters preceding or following that letter alphabetically may be used. For example, the MMM, MM, or M-M counts for Bingo in counties that begin with the letters L, M, or N (as well as any other letter in the suffix). Note: Calls with WW or YY may be used for

counties that begin with V or W or Z, but do not count as the "X" wild card. The ZZ double letter can be used for Y, Z, or A, and the AA double letter can be used for A, B, or Z.

- **Wild Card Call Signs**: Call signs with an X in the call (such as KX1AB or W1ABX) and call signs belonging to operators with one or more Stars are good for Bingo in every **USA County**.

The term **Stars** is defined in General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards.

For counties with two or more words in the name, the first letter of any word may be used to coincide with the call (West Baton Rouge or Jim Hogg).

For Alaskan judicial districts use First Judicial District – South East; Second Judicial District – North West; Third Judicial District - South Central; and Fourth Judicial District - Central.

Self-credit): A mobile/portable operator who possesses the ability to give a Bingo contact to others when transmitting from a county may claim self-credit toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF bands.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. Bingo is awarded for working **All USA Counties**. After completing Bingo, each sequential award (Bingo II, etc.) can be worked by **Starting Over** and working All **USA Counties** again for the sequential award.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Bingo Cinco Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts in all **USA Counties** with amateur radio operators who have earned the Bingo I, Bingo II, or higher-level Bingo awards in order to collect a total of five (5) Bingo credits in each county.

SPECIAL RULES: All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2015. Each **Valid Contact** with an operator who has earned the Bingo Award (a "Bingo Holder") counts toward the five Bingo credits needed for each county.

If you work five different Bingo holders in the same county, you have 5 Bingo credits and have completed all the needed Bingo contacts for that county.

Valid Contacts with amateur operators who have earned higher level Bingo awards (Bingo II, Bingo III, etc.) count earn multiple Bingo credits`, depending on the Bingo award level. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Bingo V Award, that contact is worth five credits – all you need to complete the county - you have completed the county with only one contact.

Contacts with one Bingo II holder (2 credits) and one Bingo III holder (3 credits) would also finish the county with a total of 5 Bingo credits. You can only count a contact with each Bingo holder one time per

county. In other words, even if you work a Bingo II holder twice in the same county, you still only have two credits for that county.

If you have an additional **Valid Contact** with an operator who has earned a higher-level Bingo award after the date of your original contact, you can add the additional credit(s) to your Bingo Cinco log. In no case, however, can you claim more Bingo credits for a Bingo holder call sign in your log than the total number of Bingo awards actually held by the operator at the time of your last claimed contact in that county.

You cannot claim **Self-credi**t for Bingo credits earned by an operator after the date of your last contact unless you make an additional **Valid Contact** with that operator in the county.

A mobile/portable operator who holds a Bingo Award or higher-level Bingo award (Bingo II, Bingo III, etc.) may claim **Self-credit** toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF **Bands**. The credit received will be equal to the number of Bingo credits the operator claiming **Self-credit** currently holds.

AWARD LEVELS: Certificate and plaque for earning a total of five Bingo credits in each county for All **USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Bingo - Natural Bingo

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with stations that match the first letter of the county in which the stations are operating with one of the letters in the suffix of their amateur call sign.

SPECIAL RULES: For counties with two or more words in the name, the first letter of any word may be used to coincide with the letters in the suffix of the Call Sign (West Baton Rouge or Jim Hogg).

For Alaskan judicial districts use First Judicial District – South East; Second Judicial District – North West; Third Judicial District - South Central; and Fourth Judicial District - Central.

The special rules that apply to Bingo – The Master County Hunter Award for short call signs, repeated letters in call signs, stars, and wild cards do not apply to Natural Bingo. Only the actual letters in the suffix of the call sign may be used.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels.

Natural Bingo is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with All **USA Counties.**

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

County Challenge Award

IN MEMORIAM: The County Challenge Award is dedicated to Bill Inkrote (K2NJ-SK). In addition to his years of service to MARAC and leadership as MARAC President, Bill was an active DXCC Honor

Roll member, contester, DXpeditioner, and a dedicated county hunter who led the way in working counties on all bands and modes.

OBJECTIVE: To encourage county hunters to work and activate counties on as many bands as possible and to work as many counties as possible on the following bands: 160m, 75-80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, and 6m.

SPECIAL RULES: The number of counties worked for the award is the combined total of counties worked on each **Band**. For example, if 500 counties are worked on 80m, 1500 on 40m, 2000 on 30m, and 3000 on 20m, the County Challenge total is 7000.

AWARD LEVELS: Each one thousand (1000) counties worked is one level of the award. For example, a CC total of 7,000 counties would be eligible for CC Level #7.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

County Hunter of the Year Award – SSB

County Hunter of the Year Award – CW

IN MEMORIAM: The County Hunter of the Year Award - CW is in honor of Ed Sanders (WA6VJP, SK). Ed was a seven-time winner of the Net Control of the Year Award – CW, as well as a winner of the County Hunter of the Year Award - CW. Ed had one of the best "fists" in America and worked all counties on CW five times.

OBJECTIVE: To recognize members of MARAC who have made a significant overall contribution to MARAC and county hunting during the 12 months immediately prior to start of nominations for this award.

SPECIAL RULES: The recipients of this award are determined by an annual ballot of the MARAC membership. The vote is conducted before each annual meeting. The nomination process for this award changed in January, 2023 and is described below:

1 - NOMINEES: Nominees for this award must be active members of MARAC in good standing and whose membership has not expired at the time of nomination or at the time the voting ballot is prepared for distribution. As noted in criteria 3h below, the nominees for a particular category (SSB or CW) for this award cannot have been a winner in the prior two years in the same category.

2 - NOMINATORS: The candidates for the award are nominated by any active MARAC Member in good standing at the time of nomination. Good standing includes having a membership which has not expired.

3 - CRITERIA FOR NOMINEES: Criteria for consideration for County Hunter of the Year in either category include the following:

a. Nominees for this award must be active members of MARAC in good standing and whose membership has not expired at the time of nomination or at the time the voting ballot is prepared for distribution.

b. Quality and quantity of operating to provide **Valid Contacts** from multiple counties while in **Mobile Operation** or while assisting mobile county hunters as a Net Control Station (NCS), assistant **NCS**, or independent operator acting alone to announce mobiles or provide relay assistance.

c. Participation in MARAC activities and service to MARAC and the members of MARAC.

d. Other activities in support of county hunting.

e. Technical proficiency in design or usage or implementation of enhancements to mobile operation or county hunting net operations. Overall amateur radio general support in a manner consistent with good operation and advancement of the hobby.

f. Member qualification must be based on his/her activities during the previous 12 months, ending on the last day before nominations are accepted.

g. MARAC Board members are eligible for this award. However, consideration should not be based upon their fulfillment of their board duties. Their consideration must be based upon activity outside of this such as mobile activity, net assistance activity, spotting activity, service to other members, and general overall enhancement of county hunting.

h. A member of MARAC may receive this award multiple times for each category; however, only once every three years for the same category.

4 - NOMINATION JUSTIFICATION: Any member who desires to nominate someone must prepare a justification for the nomination including two specific sections, including:

a. Nominee's Activity/Contributions to County Hunting during the 12month period ending the day before nominations are opened. This should include pertinent data listed in the Criteria for Consideration listed in section 3 above, and

b. A summary of the biographical information concerning the nominee such as the date they were first licensed as an amateur radio operator, the number of years that individual has been a member of MARAC,

officer or appointed positions in Marac previously/currently held by the nominee, and other interesting background information.

5 - NOMINATION DEADLINE: the date by which nominations must be received is specified in the MARAC RoadRunner newsletter when the opening of nominations is announced.

6 - FORWARDING NOMINATIONS: All nominations and the associated justification documentation should be forwarded directly to the MARAC **Awards Manager** (who will in turn distribute it to the members of the **Awards Committee**).

7 - The **Awards Committee** will meet and discuss the justification information submitted with each nomination to determine if that nomination should be placed on the ballot.

8 - If the **Awards Committee** receives more than three nominations for a category, the **Awards Committee** will select up to three nominees for each category for the ballot.

9 - If less than three nominations are received, the **Awards Committee** may (optionally) select additional nominees to bring the number of nominees for the ballot up to three.

10 - If only one nomination is received and the Awards **Committee** declines to add any other nominees, the **Awards Manager** may declare that one nominee the winner in that category for that year.

11 - If multiple nominees were on the ballot for a category, then the winners will be held and announced at the annual meeting (usually in July of the same year the election is held).

AWARD LEVELS: A MARAC special plaque is presented to the nominee in each category who receives the most votes. Certificates are presented to each of the other nominees on the ballot.

APPLICATION AND FEES: There are no fees for this award.

Double Diamond Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** in A**ll USA Counties** with other operators who have earned the MARAC Mobile Diamond Award, including contacts while in a **Mobile Operation** transmitting from at least 500 counties as the holder of the Mobile Diamond Award.

SPECIAL RULES: All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2015, and after the applicant has received the Mobile Diamond Award.

After having received the Mobile Diamond Award, the applicant must make contacts with other holders of the Mobile Diamond Award in **All USA Counties** (Double Diamond contacts). Both Mobile Diamond holder operators involved in each Double Diamond contact may count both counties toward the Double Diamond Award. However, self-credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.

The applicant must make **Valid Contacts** while transmitting in a **Mobile Operation** from at least five hundred (500) different counties. In each of the 500 different counties transmitted while in **Mobile Operation**, the applicant must use at least (2) different **Bands** and make at least three (3) **Valid Contacts** with different stations on any one **Band** and a total of three (3) or more additional **Valid Contacts** on one or more additional **Bands** (any combination of additional **Bands**). At least one of these contacts must be with another holder of the

Mobile Diamond Award and that contact may be on any **Band**. If needed, this mobile contact may also count toward the requirement to make **Valid Contacts** with other Mobile Diamond holders in All USA Counties. For each **Valid Contact**, the two Mobile Diamond Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time the **Valid Contact** is made.

AWARD LEVELS: There are no intermediate levels for this award. The award is for making Double Diamond contacts in **All USA Counties**, as well as transmitting from 500 counties in a **Mobile Operation**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

DX Mobile Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **contacts** with amateur radio operators in DXCC countries while operating mobile.

SPECIAL RULES: The ARRL DXCC List in effect at the time the award application is received by MARAC is used to determine valid DXCC entities for this award.

The applicant's home DXCC country cannot be used for this award unless the applicant makes the contact while mobile in a different DXCC entity. For example, a German applicant could count a contact with Germany if the contact was made while the German ham was mobile in Italy.

Valid Contacts with Alaska or Hawaii can be counted by applicants from the "lower 48" United States because Alaska and Hawaii are different DXCC entities.

Aeronautical or maritime mobiles must be within the territorial limits of the country for which a contact is claimed.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 25 DXCC entities

New Certificates for 50, 75, and 100 DXCC entities

Plaque for 150 or more DXCC entities

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees. List contacts alphabetically by DXCC entity call sign.

Five Band Counties Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio stations in All USA Counties on any five (5) amateur bands.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

A mobile/portable operator may claim **Self-credit** toward ONE of the **Bands** required for this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the single **Band** for which the credit is to be applied. In order to claim **Self-credit** for additional **Bands** in the same county, an additional **Valid Contact** must be made on each different **Band** that is to be claimed.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 2000 counties on five (5) **Bands**.

MARAC Trophy for All USA Counties on five (5) **Bands**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees. There is no charge for the MARAC Trophy.

Five Mode Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio stations in All **USA Counties** using five (5) different **Modes** for each county.

SPECIAL RULES: Each of the five contacts for each county must be made using a different **Mode**.

The contacts may be made using any **Band** and may be made on the same Band or on any mix of **Bands**. Any of the **Modes** used to complete a particular county may be different from any or all of the **Modes** used to complete other counties.

Any **Mode** of operation or form of modulation (including, but not limited to, SSB, FM, CW, SSTV, and the many digital forms of modulation) that is legal for amateur use under the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may be used for this award.

For each **Mode** that has variations in speed or other parameters (such as CW-R or PSK 63), the variations do not count as separate or different **Modes**. **Modes** with variations in speed or other parameters are referred to as "**Mode** sets." The variations in each **Mode** set are collectively considered a single different **Mode** for purposes of this award.

Valid Contacts that are eligible for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. When at least one of the stations is a **Mobile Operation**, both stations may count the contact.

AWARD LEVELS: A separate award (certificate and mobile plaque) is available for each State.

All counties in a **State** must be completed for the award for that State.

Each State award may be earned multiple times up to a maximum of ten (10) times, but only the first time is a numbered award. An applicant must complete contacts with all counties in a State (using five different Modes) before starting over in that State.

A special MARAC Trophy will be awarded for completing contacts using five different **Modes** in All **USA Counties**. There is no fee for the special MARAC trophy.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Five Star Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** in **all USA Counties** with holders of the CQ Magazine Worked All Counties Award or the MARAC United States of America County Award and MARAC multiple times Worked All USA Counties Award totaling five (5) Stars in each county.

SPECIAL RULES: Each contact with a Star counts toward the five Star total needed for each county. If you work five different USACA holders in the same county, you have **Valid Contacts** with five Stars and have completed all the needed **Stars** for that county.

Contacts with amateur operators who have earned more than one **Star** count for the number of **stars** earned. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Fifth Time Award, that contact is worth five **Stars**, and you have completed the county with only one contact!

You can only count a contact with each Star one time per county. In other words, if you work a two-Star holder twice in the same county, you have only accumulated two **Stars** for that county. However, if you have another **Valid Contact** with an operator who has earned one or more additional **Stars** after the date of your original contact, you can add the additional **Star**(s) to your Five Star log. In no case, however, can you claim more **Star** credits for a call sign in your log than the total number of Stars actually held by the operator at the time of your last claimed contact in that county.

Also, you cannot claim credit for **Stars** earned by an operator after the date of your last contact unless you make an additional **Valid Contact** with that call sign in the county for which the additional Stars are claimed.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator may claim self-credit toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF bands. The credit received will be equal to the stars the operator claiming self-credit currently holds.

AWARD LEVELS: Certificate and plaque for contacts with five **Stars** in **all USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Gemini Award

IN MEMORIAM: The Gemini Award is in honor of Jack Scroggins (WØSJE, SK), a charter founder of MARAC and the first MARAC **Awards Manager**.

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have received the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Second Time Award (two **Stars**).

SPECIAL RULES: Only one **Valid Contact** with each two-**Star** holder may be used for this award.

Each **Valid Contact** must be made on or after the date that the MARAC Worked All USA Counties Second Time Award was issued to that two-**Star** holder.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for contacts with 25 different two-**Star** holders.

New Certificates for contacts with 50, 75, 100, and 150 two-**Star** holders.

Plaque for contacts with 150 or more different two-**Star** holders.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. Standard fees apply to the certificate and plaque.

List the two **Star** holders call signs in numerical order of the MARAC Worked **All USA Counties** Second Time Award number, starting with the lowest number. **Logs** for higher levels should list all contacts cumulatively.

King of the Road Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with the same mobile operator in multiple counties and States.

SPECIAL RULES: The applicant must make **Valid Contacts** with the same operator while that operator is in a **Mobile Operation**.

If the operator has changed call signs, all of the different calls signs for the same operator may be used for this award.

The applicant may also order additional award certificates and plaques to be presented as a “thank you” to the mobile operator with whom the multiple contacts are made for each category of this award.

AWARD LEVELS:

King of the Road - Multi-County Award

A certificate is issued for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile operator in 100 different counties. New certificates are awarded for making contacts with the same mobile operator in 250, 500, and 1000 different counties respectively.

The MARAC Mobile Plaque is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile operator in 1500, 2000, 2500, or 3000 different counties.

A MARAC Special Plaque is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile in **All USA Counties**.

King of the Road - Multi-State Award

A certificate is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile operator in fifteen (15) different states. The certificate is upgraded with MARAC New certificates are awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile in 25, 35, or 45 different states.

The MARAC Mobile Plaque is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile in 48 or more **States**.

King of the Road (State) Award

A certificate is awarded for making **Valid Contacts** with the same mobile in all counties of a single State. A separate certificate is available for each State.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Last County in a State Award

IN MEMORIAM: The Last County in a State Award is in honor of Ken Carpenter (KC4UG, SK), who was one of the most active mobile operators in MARAC. Ken received more than 500 last county awards and was always ready to drive the extra mile to get a last county for a fellow county hunter.

OBJECTIVE: To recognize the operator who transmits a **Valid Contact** for the last county in a State needed by a county hunter.

SPECIAL RULES: This award is presented by a county hunter as a “thank you” to the operator who transmits the last county needed to complete a State. See the General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards for further guidance on how this award is used by county hunters.

AWARD LEVELS: Last County in a State awards are recorded in the MARAC database and a notice of each award is published in the MARAC Roadrunner monthly newsletter. A paper certificate can be ordered from the **Awards Secretary**. After transmitting twenty-five (25) last counties, a MARAC member receives a Roadrunner Award.

APPLICATION AND FEES: The fee for both members and non-members applying for this award is $1.00 for the award. After the first award certificate, the fee for a certificate by mail is $3.00. The Last County award application is available on the MARAC web site. MARAC will manually input paper applications for a surcharge of $3.00 for each application.

Note: This award is paperless.

Last County in the USA Award

OBJECTIVE: To recognize the operator who gives a **Valid Contact** for the last county needed by a county hunter to finish working **All USA Counties** for any MARAC award that requires the applicant to work **All USA Counties**.

SPECIAL RULES: This award is presented by a county hunter as a "thank you" to the operator who transmits the last county needed to complete All USA Counties, which is also known as the "Whole Ball of Wax." See the General Rules and Definitions for MARAC Awards for further guidance on how this award is used by county hunters. This award also counts as a **Last County** for the MARAC Roadrunner Award.

AWARD LEVELS: None.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Both members and non-members applying for this award pay a flat fee of $1.00 for the certificate ($3.00 by mail) or $20.00 for the certificate and mobile plaque. The plaque is delivered to the recipient by MARAC.

The **Last County** award application is available on the MARAC web site.

Master Gold Award

IN MEMORIAM: The Master Gold Award is in honor of Arnie Bachmann (K9DCJ, SK). Arnie was a big part of the history of county hunting and was the unofficial MARAC historian. In 1991, Arnie authored the "USA-CA Award: The Story of County Hunting," which was published as a three-part series in CQ Magazine. He wrote county hunting history articles for the MARAC convention annual reports.

OBJECTIVE: For holders of both a **Star** and the Bingo - Master County Hunter Award ("Bingo") to: 1) make **Valid Contacts** in A**ll USA Counties** with each other, and 2) perform service to MARAC and the county hunting community.

SPECIAL RULES:

All contacts for Master Gold must be made after the applicant has earned at least one **Star** and the Bingo Award

Each contact must be made with another operator who has also earned at least one **Star** and the Bingo Award.

Both counties involved in a **Valid Contact** may be counted by both operators. However, **Self-credit** can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.

The applicant must provide proof satisfactory to the **Awards Secretary** of the following total hours of service to MARAC:

- Completions prior to 4/1/2022 require 1,500 hours
- Completions on or after 4/1/2022 require 1,200 hours consisting of any combination of the following:

A. Hours earned by serving as an elected officer or director of the club or an appointed position at the rates specified in the list below for 12 months of service (any partial years of service are to be credited using the appropriate annual rate prorated to daily values and multiplied by the number of days actually served in that year):

	Period before 4/1/22	Period 4/1/22 or later
• President	200	500 • Vice President 200 500
• Secretary	500	500
• Treasurer	300	500
• Past President (if position filled and active)	100	100
• District Director	100	300 • Awards Manager 500 500
• Awards Secretary	500	500
• Awards Committee Members	Actual	200
• USA Records Custodian	N/A	300
• Newsletter Editor	500	500
• Election Coordinator	Actual	200
• Publicity & Advertising Coordinator	N/A	200
• General Counsel	Actual	200
• Webmaster	Actual	200
• IT Director	Actual	300
• Lead Programmer for Logger 2: Base credit per year (no logs required)	Actual	300
• Lead Programmer for Logger 2:	Actual	300

Supplemental credit of 1 hour for each hour the base credit (logs required for all hours)	Actual above	Actual
• Assistant programmers or user support persons for Logger 1 or 2: Base credit per year (no logs required)	Actual	200
• Assistant programmers or user support persons for Logger 1 or 2: Supplemental credit of 1 hour for each hour worked above the base credit (logs required for all hours)	Actual	Actual
• National or mini convention coordinator	Actual	Actual
B. Hours earned by transmitting from counties – An applicant may substitute transmitted counties for hours of service at the rate of one transmitted county equals one hour of service. Limitations:		
a. You may transmit from the same county multiple times (but no more than once on the same date),	Actual	Actual
b. The same county may only be counted a maximum of 50 times.		
C. Hours earned by individuals serving in a Net Control or Assistant Net Control position during times when "structured" nets were/are in effect (Logs required)	Actual	Actual
D. Hours earned by individuals who support county activations by operators using mobile, portable, or fixed operation can earn minutes of credit for various activities as specified below (logs of activity are required when claiming credit):	(see below)	(see below)
a. posting/spotting active station on the W6RK or other MARAC sponsored website (if any)	N/A	4 min./spot
b. providing relay assistance to the active station	N/A	3 min./run
c. Providing all of the support in (a) and (b) plus announcing the mobile at the beginning and end of the run.	10 min./run	10 min. /run
E. Hours earned by posting a trip plan to the CountyHunter Web trips page in advance of the trip.		

Limitation: If the plan is removed or cancelled, N/A 30 min. per plan no credit can be claimed by the person posting the trip.

(A log containing the following is required:

a) date plan was posted, b) beginning and end dates of trip,

c) states listed to be run.)

F. Other service - Any member or non-member who performs a service task that benefits MARAC objectives, operations, event functions, recruiting efforts, publications such as newsletters, etc. can claim service hour credits toward the Master Gold service requirement at the rate of actual service hours expended in performing the task. Adequate explanation of the service(s) should be documented and provided to the Awards staff at the time application for the Master Gold award is submitted.

5 All Valid Contacts for this award must have been made after June 1, 1994

6 At least half (750) of the hours of service or transmitted 750 600 counties (or combination of both) must have been performed after June 1, 1994. Therefore, completions : • prior to 4/1/2022 require 750 hours after 6/1/199, and • on or after 4/1/2022 require 600 hours after 6/1/1994.

AWARD LEVELS: Master Gold is awarded for working All USA Counties and completing the full 1500 hours of service or transmitted counties. required as follows:

- Completions prior to 4/1/2022 require 1,500 hours
- Completions on or after 4/1/2022 require 1,200 hours Intermediate levels

are NOT available for this award.

APPLICATION AND FEES: The standard application fee applies to this award.

If funds are not already being held for you by the Treasurer for fees, send funds via mail or PayPal to the Treasurer as soon as possible (see info on application form). Award will not be issued until fees have been received. The application should conform to each of the requirements listed below:

1 The application should be entered online at the MARAC.org website using the form titled “Worked All Counties Application”. Follow all instructions on the form.

2 Fill in the required information in the first five fields. In the field titled “Desired Award”, select the drop-down option for “Master Gold”. Then complete the other fields on the form.

3 In the online “Comments” field at the bottom of the form, list the following:

a. Total service hours earned as of _____ was _____ hours.

b. Of that total, the breakdown of that total by source of hours earned is as follows

1. _____ hours - (enter source description)_____

2. _____ hours - (enter source description)_____

4 Also in the "Comments" field enter the following phrase and fill in a date: "The date when the required number of total service hours was achieved was _____ (mm/dd/yy)."

5 Prepare an email to the Awards Secretary at the address shown at the top of the application form. Attach to that email each of the following:

• A log of all contacts which satisfies the contact requirement for all 3,077 counties – including callsign worked, date, county, state, mode. It is your responsibility to verify that the other party to the contact had a "star" and had achieved the "Bingo" award prior to the time of the contact. Logger 1 or 2 should automatically validate that information, but users who don't use Logger must validate it independently and should have a column indicating that it was validated for each contact. At the end of this log, attest to the fact that you have verified that ALL contacts in the log were made after June 1, 1994

• A log supporting each separate category of service hours earned in item 3 above. In the case where you have held multiple positions which provided a base credit or actual hours spent credit, list each position, the from/to dates the position was held and the earned hours based on the data in Item 4 of the Special Rules section above.

• A log of all transmitted counties that you are claiming credit for as part of your service requirement. The log should be sorted by state, county, date, time, mode, and the other operator's callsign that you contacted at that time. At the end of the log provide a total of all hours claimed for transmitted counties and attest to the fact that you have verified that:

A. No county is counted more than once on a specific date

B. No county is counted more than 50 times in the entire list submitted

C. At least half of the transmitted county contacts or other service hours were earned after June 1, 1994 (Special Rule #6).

• A log of all hours of **Net Contro**l or Assistant Net Control time including date, start time, end time, mode, hours earned, and position (NC or ANC) you were performing (if you are claiming NC or ANC credit only).

• A log of all runs during which you were providing assistance for mobile, portable, or fixed operators who were trying to put out counties (whether on a normal county hunting frequency or not). The log should contain date, call sign of operator who was assisted, frequency, mode, and functions performed to justify the credit taken. Credit is limited to the amounts of minutes listed in Special Rule #4D and are

different depending on the actual assistance provided in that run. This log is needed only if you are claiming service credit for assisting other operators.

6 Enter any other appropriate comments for the Awards Secretary and then click the button titled “Submit Application” at the very bottom of the form.

Master Platinum Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with Master Gold Award holders, including transmitting from at least 500 counties after the applicant has earned the Master Gold Award.

SPECIAL RULES: An applicant must make **Valid Contacts** with holders of the Master Gold Award in **All USA Counties** (Master’s Gold contacts).

All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after February 12, 2003.

Valid Contacts with Master Gold Award holders made before the applicant receives the Master Gold Award are good for the county where the Master Gold Award holder is located. After the applicant receives the Master Gold Award, both operators may count both counties. However, self-credit can only be claimed if the operator is physically located in that county.

After the date of the applicant’s Master Gold Award, the applicant must make additional Valid Contacts with other holders of the Master Gold Award while transmitting from at least five hundred (500) different counties.

The two Master Gold Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time a **Valid Contact** is made.

AWARD LEVELS: The Master Platinum is awarded for making Master Gold contacts in All USA Counties and transmitting from at least 500 different counties as a Master Gold holder.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

MARAC Achievement Awards

OBJECTIVE: To provide recognition of achievements by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.

SPECIAL RULES: Presentation of the MARAC Outstanding Achievement Award plaque must be approved by a majority of the MARAC Board of Directors. Presentation of the MARAC Lifetime Achievement Award trophy must be approved by two-thirds of the MARAC Board of Directors.

AWARD LEVELS: There are three levels of MARAC Achievement Awards.

The MARAC **Special Achievement Award** certificate may be presented by the MARAC Board of

Directors from time to time for any reason deemed appropriate by the Board. In addition, a Special Achievement Award certificate is presented to the second and third place runner-ups for the Mobile of the Year– SSB and CW, Mobile Assist of the Year – SSB and CW, and Mobile Team of the Year awards.

The MARAC **Outstanding Achievement Award** plaque is presented by the MARAC Board of Directors to recognize an exceptional accomplishment by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.

The MARAC **Lifetime Achievement Award** trophy is presented by the MARAC Board of Directors to recognize the cumulative accomplishments by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community over a number of years.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: The Board of Directors will determine when the announcement and presentation/mailing of awards will occur.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Special Achievement Awards associated with the annual mobile award are automatically issued after the winners are announced following completion of the fourth quarterly voting period for the year. No application is needed for these awards.

Other Special Achievement Awards, Outstanding Achievement Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award are initiated by submitting a written recommendation to the MARAC Board of Directors that includes reasons for making the award. There is no fee for any of these awards.

MARAC Contest Awards

OBJECTIVE: To recognize highest scoring entrants in the annual MARAC county hunting contests.

SPECIAL RULES: MARAC sponsors annual SSB and CW contests.

Each contest is organized and chaired by a Contest Manager who is appointed by the MARAC President. The Contest Manager will recommend contest rules for approval by the MARAC Board of Directors, announce and publicize the contest, receive and score contest entries, and notify the **Awards Manager** of the results of the contest.

AWARD LEVELS: Contest award categories are defined in the contest rules. Certificates and plaques to be awarded to be determined by the Contest Manager for each year's contest.

APPLICATION AND FEES: In order to be eligible for an award, an entrant must submit a log and entry information that meets all of the requirements of the contest rules. There are no contest entry fees or other fees for this award.

MARAC Custodian's Award

OBJECTIVE: To recognize members of MARAC who are supportive of the goals, objectives, and needs of the MARAC awards program.

SPECIAL RULES: Each year the **Awards Manager** may select one or more members of MARAC who are deserving of special recognition. The criteria for this award are solely within the discretion of the **Awards Manager**, but recommendations may be obtained from any county hunter.

The MARAC Custodian's Award plaque is usually presented at the MARAC annual convention.

AWARD LEVELS: None

APPLICATION AND FEES: No application is required. There are no fees for this award.

MARAC Service Awards

OBJECTIVE: To provide recognition of service to MARAC and the county hunting community.

SPECIAL RULES: Presentation of the MARAC Outstanding Service Award plaque must be approved by a majority of the MARAC Board of Directors. Presentation of the MARAC

Lifetime Service Award trophy must be approved two-thirds of the MARAC Board of Directors.

The MARAC Outstanding Service Award and MARAC Lifetime Service Award are usually presented at the MARAC annual convention.

AWARD LEVELS: There are three levels of MARAC Service Awards:

1) Certificate of Appreciation The MARAC **Awards Manager** will present a MARAC Certificate of Appreciation to any person who provides a special service to MARAC. This award certificate is presented upon the recommendation of any member of MARAC and does not require action by the MARAC Board of Directors.

2) Outstanding Service Award The MARAC Outstanding Service Award plaque is presented to recognize exceptional service to MARAC by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.")

A uniquely named Outstanding Service Award (the "Lightning Leo Award) was established to recognize the significant service rendered to the club in planning and hosting the annual MARAC national convention. This award is named in honor of Leo Bingham, WY7LL who passed away suddenly during a bus excursion at the 2013 MARAC National Convention, which was hosted by Leo and his wife, Christine, WY7ML.

3) Lifetime Service Award The MARAC Lifetime Service Award trophy is presented to recognize the cumulative service to MARAC over a number of years by a county hunter or other member of the amateur radio community.

APPLICATION AND FEES: The Outstanding Service Award and Lifetime Service Award are initiated by submitting a written recommendation to the MARAC Board of Directors that includes reasons for making the award. There is no fee for this award.

Mobile Assist of the Year – SSB and CW

OBJECTIVE: To recognize individuals who spend their time and efforts helping mobile stations on any frequency to maximize their contacts and the efficiency in their runs. This award encourages stations to spot mobiles and assist with relays at the end of runs.

Every mobile will attest to the fact that being spotted greatly increases activity during a mobile run. When band conditions are poor it is important to assist weak stations with relays to the mobiles. The Mobile Assist would be performing these duties and the efforts to perform them should be recognized.

SPECIAL RULES:

First, second, and third-place winners of this award will be selected each year by quarterly electronic ballots sent to each member in good standing (as evidenced by current payment of dues).

On each quarterly ballot, members are able to submit votes for the top operators who they feel are worthy of recognition for this award in the prior quarter.

To qualify to be a vote recipient, the operator being nominated must indiscriminately provide spots for mobiles that are running or assistance with relays at the end of the mobile runs, if needed.

At the end of voting for all four quarters, the top three winners are determined. The quarterly electronic voting process is conducted by the Election Coordinator. Operators may receive these awards multiple times and in consecutive years.

AWARD LEVELS: First, second, and third place winners are recognized each year. First place – receives a MARAC special plaque. Second and third place – receives a certificate.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: The annual winners for this award will be announced following completion of voting in all four quarters. The Board of Directors will determine when the announcement and presentation/mailing of awards will occur.

APPLICATION AND FEES:

Application for the award does not occur since winners are determined by votes from the membership. There are no fees for these awards.

Mobile Diamond Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** in **All USA Counties** with mobile operators who have earned the MARAC Master Platinum Award, including contacts while in a **Mobile Operation** and transmitting from at least 500 counties on at least two different bands after the applicant has earned the Master Platinum Award.

SPECIAL RULES: All **Valid Contacts** for this award must have been made on or after September 15, 2010.

After the date of the applicant's Master Platinum Award, the applicant must make contacts with holders of the Master Platinum Award in All USA Counties (Master Platinum contacts). Both Master Platinum operators involved in the contact may count both counties toward the Mobile Diamond Award.

After the date of the applicant's Master Platinum Award, the applicant must make additional **Valid Contacts** while transmitting in a Mobile Operation from at least five hundred (500) different counties.

In each of the 500 different transmitted counties, the applicant must use at least (2) different **Bands** and make at least three (3) Valid Contacts with different stations on each **Band**. In each of the 500 different transmitted counties, at least one (1) of the **Valid Contacts** must be with another holder of the Master Platinum Award. The contact may be on either of the two **Bands**.

For each **Valid Contact**, the two Master Platinum Award holders must be in separate counties (or countries) at the time the **Valid Contact** is made.

AWARD LEVELS: The Mobile Diamond is awarded for making Master Platinum contacts in All USA Counties and making multiple contacts while transmitting in a **Mobile Operation** from at least 500 different counties on at least two **Bands** as a Master Platinum holder.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. There are no fees for MARAC members for this award. Standard fees apply to non-members.

Mobile of the Year Award – SSB

OBJECTIVE: To recognize operators who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by making contacts from multiple counties while in a **Mobile Operation** using the **SSB** mode.

SPECIAL RULES: First, second, and third-place winners of this award will be selected each year by quarterly electronic ballots sent to each member in good standing (as evidenced by current payment of dues). On each quarterly ballot, members are able to submit votes for the top operators who they feel are worthy of recognition for this award in the prior quarter.

At the end of voting for all four quarters, the top three winners are determined. The quarterly electronic voting process is conducted by the Election Coordinator. Operators may receive these awards multiple times and in consecutive years.

AWARD LEVELS: First, second, and third place winners are recognized each year.

First place – receives a MARAC special plaque.

Second and third place – each receives a certificate.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:

The annual winners for this award will be announced following completion of voting in all four quarters. The Board of Directors will determine when the announcement and presentation/mailing of awards will occur.

APPLICATION AND FEES:

Application for the award does not occur since winners are determined by votes from the membership. There are no fees for this award.

Mobile of the Year Award – CW

IN MEMORIAM: The Mobile of the Year Award - CW is in honor of Mike Mutnick (KV0E, SK). Mike, a two-time winner of the Mobile of the Year Award - CW, was tragically murdered by hitchhikers while on a mobile trip in New Mexico in 1984.

OBJECTIVE: To recognize operators who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by making contacts from multiple counties while in a **Mobile Operation** using the CW mode.

SPECIAL RULES:

1. First, second, and third-place winners of this award will be selected each year by quarterly electronic ballots sent to each member in good standing (as evidenced by current payment of dues).
2. On each quarterly ballot, members are able to submit votes for the top operators who they feel are worthy of recognition for this award in the prior quarter.
3. At the end of voting for all four quarters, the top three winners are determined.
4. The quarterly electronic voting process is conducted by the Election Coordinator.
5. Operators may receive these awards multiple times and in consecutive years.

AWARD LEVELS: First, second, and third place winners are recognized each year.

First place – receives a MARAC special plaque.

Second and third place – receives a certificate.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: The annual winners for this award will be announced following completion of voting in all four quarters. The Board of Directors will determine when the announcement and presentation/mailing of awards will occur.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Application for the award does not occur since winners are determined by votes from the membership. There are no fees for this award.

Mobile Team of the Year

OBJECTIVE: To recognize two operators who have made a significant contribution to county hunting by making **Team Contacts** from multiple counties while in a **Mobile Operation**.

SPECIAL RULES: 1. First, second, and third-place team winners of this award will be selected each year by quarterly electronic ballots sent to each member in good standing (as evidenced by current payment of dues).

2. On each quarterly ballot, members are able to submit votes for the top team operators who they feel are worthy of recognition for this award in the prior quarter.

3. At the end of voting for all four quarters, the top three winning teams are determined.

4. The quarterly electronic voting process is conducted by the Election Coordinator.

5. Teams may receive these awards multiple times and in consecutive years.

6. The same person may receive this award more than once as part of the same **Team** or a different **Team**.

AWARD LEVELS: First, second, and third place winners are recognized each year.

First place – each team member receives a MARAC special plaque.

Second and third place – each team member receives a certificate.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: The annual winners for this award will be announced following completion of voting in all four quarters. The Board of Directors will determine when the announcement and presentation/mailing of awards will occur.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Application for the award does not occur since winners are determined by votes from the membership. There are no fees for this award.

Mobile to Mobile Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with mobile amateur radio operators in all USA counties from mobile.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

AWARD LEVELS: The Mobile to Mobile Award will be awarded for making contacts in all USA counties while both parties to the contact are in a **Mobile Operation**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Native American Counties Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in USA Counties that have names derived from Native American languages.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. The list of required counties is available from the **Awards Secretary** or on the MARAC web site.

AWARD LEVELS: This award requires making **Valid Contacts** with all of the counties on the Native American counties list.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Net Control Award

IN MEMORIAM: The Net Control Award is in honor of Karl Adkins, WA6MAR, in recognition of his contributions to the county hunter nets and many hours spent as net control.

OBJECTIVE: To recognize amateur radio operators for serving as Net Control Station ("NCS") or Assistant Net Control Station ("ANCS") for any MARAC-sponsored county hunter net.

SPECIAL RULES: Hours served as either **NCS** or **ANCS** of any net operating for the primary purpose of assisting county hunters to make contacts with USA Counties may be counted for this award.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 50 hours

New Certificates for 100 hours, 250 hours, and 500 hours

Mobile Plaque for 750 hours

Special Plaque for 1,000 or more hours

Bars will be awarded for the Special Plaque in increments of 2000, 3000, and each additional 1,000 hours of service as **NCS** or **ANCS**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application with logs of dates and hours of operation as **NCS** or **ANCS**. There are no fees for this award.

Polaris Award

IN MEMORIAM: The Polaris Award is in honor of Cliff Corne, Jr. (K9EAB, SK), who was the first amateur radio operator to confirm contacts with all USA counties and earn the first USACA Award from CQ Magazine. Cliff's achievement was even more remarkable because he completed the award while confined to an iron lung with polio.

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have received the USACA Award (one **Star**).

SPECIAL RULES: Only one **Valid Contact** with each **Star** holder may be used for this award. The contact must be made on or after the date that the USACA Award was issued to that **Star** holder.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for contacts with 100 different Star holders. New certificates for contacts with 250, 500, 750, and 1,000 Star holders. MARAC Special Plaque for contacts with 1000 or more different Star holders.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. Standard fees apply to the certify ate and plaque. The standard certificate fees apply to each level. List the call sign of each **Star** holder in numerical order of the USACA number, starting with the lowest number. **Logs** for higher levels should list all contacts cumulatively.

President's Award

OBJECTIVE: To recognize members of MARAC who are supportive of the goals, objectives, and needs of the MARAC and county hunting.

SPECIAL RULES: Each year the President of MARAC may select one or more members of MARAC who are deserving of special recognition. The criteria for this award are solely within the discretion of the President, but recommendations may be obtained from any county hunter.

The President's Award plaque is usually presented at the MARAC annual convention.

APPLICATION AND FEES: No application is required. There are no fees for this award.

Ran All (State) (USA) Counties Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators while transmitting from every county in a State or all States (All **USA counties**).

SPECIAL RULES: The applicant must make **Valid Contacts** while transmitting from every county in a State (or All **USA Counties**) while the applicant is in a **Mobile Operation** or **Portable Operation**.

The counties required for each State award and the All **USA Counties** award are determined by the official list of USA Counties on the date of the application for an award. If the official counties list for State has changed after the applicant has already received a State award for that State, the revised list as of the date of application will be the list required for the All USA **Counties** award. However, if only the name of a county has changed and the boundaries of the county have not changed, credit for transmitting from that county survives and applies to the current name as well as the previous name.

AWARD LEVELS: A separate award is available for each State. All counties in a State must be completed for the award for that State.

Each State award may be earned multiple times up to a maximum of ten (10) times, but only the first time is a numbered award. An applicant must complete transmitting from all counties in a State (or all USA Counties) before starting over for that state (or All USA Counties).

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application. **Logs** must indicate the State and county transmitted, the station worked, the date of each contact, and the date of the last contact. **Band** or **Mode** is required for endorsements. There is no fee for award certificates for MARAC members. For non-members, there is no fee for the first award certificate for each State. The fee for each additional award certificate for a State is $3 for non-members. The fee for the optional mobile plaque for each State is $20. A trophy will be awarded for completing All **USA Counties**. There is no fee for the trophy.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs (indicating the county transmitted), and fees.

Roadrunner Award

OBJECTIVE: To recognize county hunters who transmit **Valid Contacts** from multiple **Last Counties**.

SPECIAL RULES: The Roadrunner Award is presented by MARAC to county hunters in recognition of transmitting from multiple **Last Counties**.

AWARD LEVELS: A MARAC mobile plaque is presented for transmitting 25 **Last Counties**. Additional mobiles plaques are issued for transmitting 50 and 75 counties.

A special MARAC plaque is presented for transmitting 100 **Last Counties**, and engraved plates that can be attached to the plaque are issued for transmitting each additional 25 **Last Counties** from 125 through 375 Last Counties.

When the level of 400 **Last Counties** is reached, a second special plaque is presented, and appropriate engraved plates are issued for higher levels in increments of 25 Last Counties from 425 through 675 **Last Counties**.

When the level of 700 **Last Counties** is reached, a third special plaque is presented, and appropriate engraved plates are issued for higher levels in increments of 25 Last Counties from 725 through 975 **Last Counties**.

A special MARAC Trophy is presented to a county hunter who transmits from 1000 **Last Counties**. This award is presented at the MARAC National Convention.

APPLICATION AND FEES: No application or fee is required for this award. The MARAC **Awards Secretary** issues the award when each level is achieved.

Star XX Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** in all **USA Counties** with holders of CQ Magazine Worked All Counties Award or MARAC United States of America County Award (USACA) or MARAC multiple time Worked All **USA Counties** Award totaling twenty (20 or XX) **Stars** in each county.

SPECIAL RULES: You must have completed the MARAC 5 **Star** Award before you start counting contacts for this Award.

Each contact with a Star counts toward the twenty **Stars** total needed for each county. If you have **Valid Contacts** with 20 different USACA holders in the same county, you have collected 20 **Stars** and have completed all the needed **Stars** for that county.

Contacts with amateur operators who have earned more than one **Star** count for the number of **stars** earned. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Worked All **USA Counties** Fifth Time Award, that contact is worth five **Stars**. If you have a **Valid Contact** with someone who holds the MARAC Worked **All Counties** Tenth Time Award, that contact is worth 10 **stars**.

You can only count a contact with each **Star** one time per county. In other words, if you work a two-**Star** holder twice in the same county, you have only accumulated two **Stars** for that county. However, if you have another **Valid Contact** with an operator who has earned one or more additional **Stars** after the date of your original contact, you can add the additional **Star**(s) to your Star XX log.

In no case, however, can you claim more **Star** credits for a call sign in your log than the total number of **Stars** actually held by the operator at the time of your last claimed contact in that county. Also, you cannot claim **credit** for **Stars** earned by an operator after the date of your last contact unless you make an additional **Valid Contact** with that call sign in the county for which the additional **Stars** are claimed.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator with the Five **Star** Award may claim **Self-credit** toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** with another Five **Star** holder on the HF bands. The credit received will be equal to the stars the operator claiming self-credit currently holds.

AWARD LEVELS: Certificate and plaque for contacts with 20 Stars in **all USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees. The Start Date for the Star XX Award is July 9, 2011.

USA - Call Sign Combo Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in A**ll USA Counties** by call sign prefix and suffix combination.

SPECIAL RULES: Only U.S. amateur call signs may be used for this award.

Each separate combination of call sign prefix and suffix letters (1x2, 2x1, 1x3, 2x2, and 2x3) is a separate category.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator may claim self-credit for any prefix credit his/her personal call sign is eligible for in that county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF bands. However, any non-personal call sign (including but not limited to a club call sign or temporary 1x1 call sign) used by

this operator is NOT eligible to be used to obtain **Self-credit** for this award when transmitting from a county.

AWARD LEVELS: A separate award is issued for each call sign combination category.

Basic Certificate for 1000 counties in each category

New Certificates for 2000 and 3,000 counties in each category

New Certificate fo**r All USA Counties** in each category

Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties** in each category

Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties** in all five call sign combination categories.

Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA-CW Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in All USA Counties using CW Mode.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** using CW submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator may claim self-credit toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** using CW on the HF bands.

AWARD LEVELS: USA-CW is awarded for working All **USA Counties.** After completing USA-CW, each sequential award (USA-CW II, USA-CW III, etc.) can be worked by Starting Over and working All **USA Counties** for the sequential award.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA - Digital Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in All **USA Counties** using any digital Mode except CW.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** using a digital mode other than CW submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator may claim **Self-credit** toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one Digital **Valid Contact** on the HF bands.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 1000 counties

New Certificates for 2000 and 3,000 counties

New Certificate for **All USA Counties**

Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties**

Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA-No Stars Award

OBJECTIVE: To make **Valid Contacts** with amateur radio operators who have not received the CQ Magazine Worked All Counties Award or MARAC United States of America County Award (USACA) and to encourage new county hunters to transmit counties while mobile.

SPECIAL RULES: Only **Valid Contacts** with operators in **Mobile** or **Portable Operation** who have no **Stars** may be used for this award. If an operator has one or more **Stars**, only contacts made with that operator before the date that the USACA Award was issued to that operator may be counted for this award. All contacts must be made on or after January 1, 2010.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. USA-No Stars is awarded for working All **USA Counties**.

After completing USA-No **Stars**, each sequential award (USA-No Stars II, USA-No Stars III, etc.) can be worked by **Starting Over** and working All **USA Counties** again for the sequential award.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA Prefix Award (USA-PA)

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators who have as the first call sign letter one of four letters assigned to USA stations.

SPECIAL RULES: Each prefix has a separate award and there is an additional award for working all prefixes.

K Prefix Award – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "K" as the first letter of their call signs.

W Prefix Award – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "W" as the first letter of their call signs.

N Prefix Award – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "N" as the first letter of their call signs.

A Prefix Award – Make **Valid Contacts** with operators that have the letter "A" as the first letter of their call signs. The following "wild cards" may be substituted for "A" call sign contacts: (a) the call sign of a DX station and (b) the call sign of any station that contains the letter “X. Note: A wildcard can be used only once in a county. For example: W3XE can be used either as an A or a W, but not both A and/W in the same county.

All Prefix Award – Make **Valid Contacts** with all four prefixes in All **USA Counties.**

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator may claim **Self-credit** for any prefix credit his/her personal call sign is eligible for in that county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF bands. However, any non-personal call sign (including, but not limited to, a club call sign or temporary 1x1 call sign) used by this operator is NOT eligible to be used to obtain **Self-credit** for this award when transmitting from a county

AWARD LEVELS: A separate certificate and optional plaque is awarded for working each prefix in All **USA Counties.** A MARAC Special Plaque will be awarded for completing all four prefixes in All **USA Counties**.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application and logs. Standard fees for each of the individual prefix awards. There is no fee for the All Prefix award certificate and special plaque.

USA - QRP Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** using **QRP** power of five (5) watts or less (output power) in any mode.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** using QRP submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. County hunters who worked **All USA Counties** using **QRP** and whose **QRP** endorsement was recorded by WD3P and maintained by WD3P were issued the first series of numbers and may apply for the award by submitting an application and appropriate fee to the MARAC **Awards Secretary**.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 1000 counties

New Certificates for 2000 and 3,000 counties

New Certificate for **All USA Counties**

Optional Plaque for **All USA Counties**

Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA - Single Band Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **All USA Counties** using a single operating amateur **band**.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** on the same band submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. Any combination of **modes** may be used on each **band**.

In order to be eligible to apply for the All **USA Counties** level of this award, the applicant must have already received the USA-CA Award from CQ Magazine or the MARAC United States of America County Award.

Self-credit (optional): A mobile/portable operator may claim **Self-credit** toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the single band for which the credit is to be applied.

AWARD LEVELS: A separate award is issued for each band.

Basic Certificate for 1000 counties on each band

New Certificates for 2000 and 3,000 counties on each band

New Certificate for All **USA Counties** on each band

Optional Plaque for All **USA Counties** on each band

Each level is sequentially numbered with a unique series of numbers.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

USA-SSB Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in All USA Counties using **SSB Mode**.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** using SSB submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator may claim **Self-credit** toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one SSB **Valid Contact** on the HF bands.

AWARD LEVELS: No intermediate levels. USA-SSB is awarded for working All **USA Counties**.

After completing USA-SSB, each sequential award (USA-SSB II, USA-SSB III, and higher levels) can be achieved by using contacts made after the date and time of the last contact associated with the previous award.

Special modification to this rule: Because of the retroactive ability to apply for sequential USA-SSB awards and the recognition that multiple applicants could be eligible at the same time for the same sequential award, those multiple applicants will share the #1 award. For USA-SSB II, applicants who apply on or before January 15, 2025, will share the #1 award. For USA-SSB III and subsequent levels, all applicants who apply on or before thirty (30) days after the date of the first application received by the **Awards Secretary** for each level will share the #1 award sequence number for that level. For each level, award numbers after the shared #1 award will start with #2 and continue in sequence. This modification to the rule will be expire on April 30, 2025.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

U.S. Presidents Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with amateur radio operators in **USA Counties** that are named after Presidents of the United States.

SPECIAL RULES: Any **Valid Contacts** submitted for other MARAC awards may also be used for this award. The list of required counties is available from the **Awards Secretary** or on the MARAC web site.

AWARD LEVELS: This award requires making **Valid Contacts** with all of the counties on the US Presidents counties list.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

Worked All USA Counties Award (multiple times)

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with All **USA Counties** for the second, third, fourth, fifth, or higher multiple times.

SPECIAL RULES: Operators may begin to count **Valid** Contacts for the MARAC Worked All **USA Counties** Second Time Award as soon as the USACA Award for working All **USA Counties** is issued by CQ Magazine or MARAC.

Operators may begin to count **Valid Contacts** for the MARAC Worked All **USA Counties** Third Time Award (or higher-level awards) as soon as the previous multiple time award is issued by MARAC.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable operator may claim **Self-credi** toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF **Bands**.

AWARD LEVELS: Certificate and optional plaque from MARAC for completing All **USA Counties** for the second time and higher.

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

YL Mobile Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with mobile female amateur radio operators.

SPECIAL RULES: The contact must be made while the female operator is in a **Mobile Operation**.

Self-credit (optional): A mobile/portable YL operator may claim self-credit toward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF **Bands**.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 100 counties

New Certificates for 200, 500, and 1000 counties

Mobile Plaque for 2000 and 3000 counties Special Plaque

for **All USA Counties**

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.

YL-OM Team Award

OBJECTIVE: To make contacts with the members of mobile **YL-OM Teams.**

SPECIAL RULES: A **Valid Contact** must be made with each member of the **YL-OM Team** in each county. Each contact must be made while the **YL-OM Team** is operating together in the same vehicle in a **Mobile Operation**.

Self-credit: A mobile/portable YL operator may claim **Self-credit t**oward this award for the transmitted county by making at least one **Valid Contact** on the HF **Bands**.

AWARD LEVELS: Basic Certificate for 250 counties

New Certificates for 500, 750, and 1000 counties

Mobile Plaque for 2000 and 3000 counties Special Plaque

fo**r** All **USA Counties**

APPLICATION AND FEES: Standard application, logs, and fees.