

# The County Hunter News

August 1, 2010  
Volume 6, Issue 8

Welcome to the On-Line County Hunter News, a monthly publication for those interested in county hunting, with an orientation toward CW operation.

Contributions of articles, stories, letters, and pictures to the editor are welcomed, and may be included in future issues at the editor's discretion.

The County Hunter News will provide you with interesting, thought provoking articles, articles of county hunting history, or about county hunters or events, ham radio or electronics history, general ham radio interest, and provide news of upcoming operating events.

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CW County Hunter Nets run on 14.0565, 10.122.5, and 7056.5, with activity occasionally on 3556.5 KHz. Also, with low sunspot activity, most of the SSB activity now is on 'friendly net' 7188/7185 KHz. The cw folks are now pioneering 17M operation on 18.0915. (21.0565, 24.9155, and 28.0565 when sunspots better). Look around 18135 or 18.132.5 for occasional 17M SSB runs.

You can see live spots of county hunter activity at [ch.W6RK.com](http://ch.W6RK.com)

For information on county hunting, check out the following resources:

The USACA award is sponsored by CQ Magazine. Rules and information are here: <http://countyhunter.com/cq.htm>

For general information FAQ on County Hunting, check out: <http://countyhunter.com/whatis.htm>

MARAC sponsors an award program for many other county hunting awards. You can find information on these awards and the rules at:

[http://countyhunter.com/marac\\_information\\_package.htm](http://countyhunter.com/marac_information_package.htm)

The CW net procedure is written up at:

<http://www.wd3p.net/ch/netproc/netproc.htm>

There is a lot more information at [www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com) . Back issues of the County Hunter News are available at [www.CHNewsonline.com](http://www.CHNewsonline.com)

De N4CD (email: [telegraphy@verizon.net](mailto:telegraphy@verizon.net) )

## Notes from the Editor



N4CD Bob USACA #883

### 1) N4CD Rumblings

Band conditions have been pretty horrible through July, but tens of thousands of contacts have been made as major travel by mobiles occurred. Likely 100,000 miles of driving has activated most of the rarer counties in ID, MT, WA, OR, CA, NV, WY, as well as back east in New England plus KY.

In this issue we continue the MARAC Follies stories. There are some incredible tales of incompetence, downright deception, double speak, and giving the one-finger salute to the membership by Officer that will make you amazed and sad at what is going on.

The good news is we have a few sunspots. The bad news is that geomagnetic disturbances, solar flares and CMEs have made many days not so great on many bands with high A index values and generally ‘disturbed’ conditions. You can watch the solar activity at

<http://www.solarcycle24.com/>

No, it’s not your rig and not your antenna – the bands are really that bad!

## 2) CW Mobile Activity in July

Wow....those rare western counties were activated! Plus New England and elsewhere in prodigious quantities.

**K8ZZ** was down in WV/VA/MD running them on bands up through 15 meters. Then he headed home through PA and OH to MI. At times spotted up to 15 meters in counties, but some days, it seemed not much happening above 20M.

**W0CML** ran a few in CO on cw. Long time no hear for him!

Kerry, **W4SIG** headed west on a big trip to ID, UT, and MT. Lots of activity on cw up through 10M at times. Some days condx were good, other days not much happening above 17M. He noted on the planned trips page:

“Unfortunately due to an injury and surgery I now have a full cast on my left arm. (A one armed paper hanger has nothing on a one armed mobile cw county hunter who should also be driving and logging! Hi!)So I will only be able to operate when my kids take turns driving. Say a prayer as my fellow drivers are 18, 17, and 15! The 13 year old wishes she could help too but that ain't happening! Please spot me if you can.”

He cleaned up lots of needs in ID, MT, and UT.

Ian, **K8MM** ran in IL and IA and west to CO and WY and MT and more on cw. He’s very active in the QSO Parties. It’s good to hear him give out counties on the CH Nets on cw. FB OP. Headed back through WY and SD toward home running the entire way.

Alan, **KI7WO** was out running in MO on SSB and CW. Headed over and got a WBOW in Grundy, MO for NU0Q on cw.

Jim, **N4JT** made a big trip from NC and back running them on cw up through 10M at times.

**WA4PGM**, Kyle, ran from VA west on vacation – made it out to CA.. Loads of cw counties.

Greg, **NM2L**, headed to VT running them on cw along the way. Had some rig problems, but got them fixed and started over again. Later, his keyer went on the fritz and he was using hand key, they got the keyer working again on the way home through WV.

Bob, **N8KIE**, only SSB in the mobile, headed from MI to TX the county hunter way. He added 10M to the stack of resonators (now 20/40/75 and 10M). For the first few counties, he was doing great on 28.336 and thereabouts, but it fizzled out as he got to the central US. After the “Travesty in TX’ on the Mobile Diamond award, he shut the radio off and drove straight on home, promising never ever, ever to run counties again. Full story later.

Steve, **N0SM**, ran over to Van Buren, IA – for a LC WBOW for Gene, NT2A - done on 20M CW.

**W0BH**, Bob, took a vacation up MT way and occasionally would get on and run counties for the folks. He was further west for a while and would pop in occasionally on CW.

**AF3X**, Jeffrey, was on for one day in TX on CW.

Phil, **AB7RW**, took a long trip down from the northwest US to south TX and back doing a great job on running counties on 40-17M.

Norm, **W3DYA** ran some counties in TX for 2 days.

**KL1V**, Kent, was in CA, but noted problems with the IC-7000 shutting down when keyed on cw on 20M. He ran on 17M a few times, but propagation didn’t cooperate for me here in TX.

**AB4YZ**, Ray, ran on cw on his trip out west. I seldom was able to hear him. He worked a few on cw when he went there. SSB runs didn't seem to be much better with lots of 'tu-tu'ing'. It's rough west of the Rockies.

**NT2A**, Gene, ran a few counties in NY state on cw.

Bill, **K2HVN**, ran over to Sussex/Kent, DE to help out the folks on cw.

Pete, **NN9K**, headed out on a nice trip west through MT.

Mike, **W0MU** ran a few on cw for the folks.

Rick, **AI5P** was out in California putting them out.

Jimmy, **K4YFH** headed from CA to OR to WA. Copy was tough for most.

Also spotted on cw: **AK8A**, **AA8R**, **K0ARS**, **WB2ABD**,

There was activity on SSB including **K5VYT**, **AA9JJ/N9QPQ**, **KA4TYG**, **W0NAC/N0LXJ**, **W4FNW/W8FNW**, and others. Even Cheryl, **KJ5PQ** and Mike **KG5UZ** surfaced for a few days in July.

Gene, **K5GE** took a nice trip up through MT, ID, back down to Clark, NV, and then west. **KM9X**, Dan, was out cleaning up needs, and Joe, **N5UZW** was over in MS running counties.

### 3) **Bill, K0DEQ**

I received a nice letter from **K0DEQ**, Bill.

“I was very active county hunting in the 60s and 70s but then drifted away into focusing on DXing. I operated mobile, especially on cw, for the county hunters in that earlier time. Not having had any mobile experience for about 30 years, I am impressed at the instant band changing ability you fellows have now, especially when I remember having to stop the car and put a different resonator on the Hustler whip any time I wanted to move to another band.

Recently I decided to try to finish off all of the counties and it has been such fun that I now expect to spend a lot of time on county hunting. After getting my records up to date I found I needed about 250 to have all the counties confirmed and in just the past few weeks I have worked about 50 of those., thanks to you and the other active mobiles stations.

It is great to hear some of the follows (especially W9MSE and W0GXQ) whom I remember from the old days. My earliest memories of county hunting include a net on 75M phone on Sunday afternoons started by some fellow in IL and in which K9EAB was a participant. “

#### **4) Ed, N4UJK – aka Magellan the Master Navigator**

I talked with Ed, N4UJK on the landline. He still has a supply of ‘map books’ (coloring books), so if you need one, get in touch with him. He’s also the only supplier of MRCs if you like pre-printed ones.

He noted that he has worked all the counties for Master Platinum, and now just needs to get out and run counties – 500 of them – to earn that award. He’s planning on it happening.

#### **5) Gail, WB2AXG**

I received a nice email from Gail. After Bill passed, all the antennas came down the next year in the winter storms, and the local hams advised her it would be hard to get them back up. She decided to sell all the ham equipment - fixed and mobile – and is now permanently off the air. She let her MARAC membership drop but keeps up to date on what is happening by reading the County Hunter News On-Line.

#### **6) WB0CQO Joe**

From the K3IMC forum

“ Good Day! It finally happened the 5th time is completed after 3 years and 8 months. It was K5GE who gave me the last 2 in Utah to finish. Almost didn't make it today as I had to go into town when Gene was mobile and luckily I turned on the mobile and heard him running Rich. Now that I have completed 5<sup>th</sup> time.....I think I am going to take a break from county hunting. I have been at it since Nov. 1966. It has been a LONG hunt and I want to see what else is happening on the ham bands. I sure want to thank all of the folks, fixed and mobiles that have made the quest a fine time. 73 for now Joe, WB0CQO”

Note de N4CD: Joe recently also finished up his Masters Gold working N4CD in Waskakie, WY.

It seems we lose so many good county hunters about the time they get their fourth or fifth star. Another good one turns to other ham radio activities. Joe said he'll keep a radio on listening for those last few to finish up some other awards at times.

## **7) NT9V, Ed and Katie**

I received a nice email from Ed, NT9V, one of our on-line readers.

*“Hope all is well with you. Read on the forum about the Karl Adkins award. I also hold the award for I believe 3000 hours as NCS.*

*The heat and humidity here and all over is terrible. Have not been out of the house for a week. Like Arnie used to say The golden years turn to rust in a hurry.*

*Ed & Katie. She said hi.”*

Ed noted he has a Karl Adkins award with 3000 hours of net control time.

## **8) W4LTF , USA-CA #706, “LT” from Lynchburg, VA**

I received a nice letter in the mail from “LT”, W4LTF. He needs four more counties for Second time and not many more than that to complete Five Star. He hasn't been spending much time on ham radio stuff, but lately he's

checked into the Century Club net and may get back on. Most of the Lynchburg contingent was 'run off' by 'you know who' in South Carolina a few years ago. (J.V. - KT4U – USA #463, , Fred, W4DF-now SK – USA-CA #464).

## **9) State QSO Parties**

It's time to have a lot of fun once again with state QSO Parties! Coming up we have MD, NJ, KS, HI, OH, plus the NAQP weekends and the 10-10 contest. Something for everyone! See Events for County Hunters at the end of this month's issue. Lots of No-Star mobiles and portables to work!

## **10) Watching the Needs**

Like many county hunters, I watch the needs as posted on the K3IMC Web Site. When I can help get a county nearby, I get in touch with the county hunter and try to set up a sked. Also, if as a more experienced county hunter, I realize if there may be an easy way for that need to be satisfied, I'll zip them an email saying 'try XXX for county so and so'. Perhaps it is right next door, or maybe the county hunter actually lives in the county needed.

In the past six months, I've begun to wonder about how seriously some of those who post the needs are about actually ever getting done. There is one "N0" YL who needs only a handful to finish up. One of her needs is Tolland, CT. I've sent her two emails saying 'Try K1BV for Tolland, CT'. A year later, that need still remains. I'm not sure if she needs an engraved invitation or what. Needless to say, for her, I'm likely not going out of my way for the rest. Why bother when she can't help herself?

There's another "N1" who has posted he'll take 'fixed of mobile' stations and who needs Rockwall, TX for Bingo. Twice, I've dropped him an email saying that long time county hunter WA5OPO, USA-CA #761, lives in Rockwall County! And is active. Even more, KG5RJ, who lives a few miles away, is frequently there mobile, and with the "R" in his call is good for Bingo. Now, Rockwall is an hour trip out and back from my QTH, but why should I waste five bucks in gas to get to it on a special arrangement, if that is what it takes. (I've also run it a few times in the last year, too).



It really makes you wonder, doesn't it?

## Ed, K8ZZ – CW CHOTY 2010

MARAC Awards Chairman Randy, AA8R, announced that Ed, K8ZZ has been given the County Hunter of the Year Award for CW in 2010!

Congrats!

## Notes from NN9K

Pete's out in MT as he writes this:

“This trip is just a reminder of why Nancy and I like to travel. Helping others with needed counties and having fun with the pileups, however unruly they become, is only a part of the reasons we leave home.

- Seeing a field of flax in bloom with the blue colored flowers so intense that the field looks like a lake at first glance.
- Yellow fields of canola as far as the eye can see.
- Looking at the mapping software and remembering that western North Dakota has hundreds of little lakes and ponds; it's not a dry land.
- The “Big Sky” country is appropriately named, although Washington and Oregon can give it a run for the money.
- Small town cafes when people will chat with you about the area and don't rush you to leave—the food's good too!
- The underground missile sites in ND recognized by the fencing and they are still active.

- Acres of windrowed hay in Montana ready for baling.
- Field after field of round bales of hay - didn't see any of the large rectangular bales that seem to be popular in other parts of the county though.
- Traveling west on Montana State Route 2 with a rainstorm between us and the Bear Paw mountains making them into a purple silhouette on the horizon.
- Driving into a rainstorm making the outside temperature drop 25 degrees in just a few minutes.
- Leaving Cut Bank, MT headed west with the mountains visible through the early morning haze and the patches of glaciers or remaining winter snow breaking up the dark color of the mountains.
- Getting close to Glacier Nation Park and watching white, puffy clouds moving along the mountain range.
- The pine forests of northwestern Montana and northern Idaho, quite a change from eastern Montana.
- Driving in Washington and seeing the huge fields of hillside, dryland wheat and remembering that in a previous life I chased combines in some of the fields slipping and sliding on the hillsides because of the slippery wheat straw.
- Enjoying the contrast of texture and color between the wheat field and the summer fallow fields.

Those are just a few of the reminders of why we travel. Yes, my radio has an "Off" switch and we do use it so we can enjoy the scenery without distraction and chat about what we are seeing and where we want to go. After all these years we still enjoy each other's company!"

# MARAC Award Chairman AA8R Resigns

Randy, AA8R, resigned mid June from the Awards Chairman position. Stay tuned for information on his successor.

From the K3IMC forum:

“I will be shipping all the MARAC Awards equipment and documentation starting 8/1/2010. Towards the end of July I will process all the outstanding LC applications and mail out all certificates but will not order any plaques or plates. That will be up to the new AM. I currently have an outstanding order of plates/plaques of which I will process.

I had a few request for a refund of the account and others who have ask for the status of a particular award. If anyone has a question about their awards or account you can find me in the W6RK chat room.”

Update:

7/12/2010: I asked KD9ZP to modify the online LC applications from being sent to my email address and he has done that so hold on to your applications and the new Awards manager will process them at some point in the future.

Also.....DO NOT send your checks to me anymore. The new awards manager will let you where and when to start sending your checks again.

Randy - AA8R

Update – Randy says he will process all awards received prior to 7/18, and do the ‘end of month’ things, then ship it all to California during the week of 7/23/2010. He volunteered to assist the new Awards Chairman with the procedures needed to process the awards until he gets up to speed.

# The MARAC Awards Ladder

When county hunters first get interested in our part of ham radio award chasing, they first likely figure that the main goal is to work all the counties – with fixed stations, mobiles, on any band and any mode they use to qualify for the CQ Magazine sponsored USA-CA. . Probably nearly all of us started out that way.

If you started a long time ago, you used a CQ Magazine ‘Record Book’, or if you really started a long time ago, the few pages in the US Directory of Awards published by the Certificate Hunters Club back in the early 1960s! Or the map book by CQ they started with. Later folks might have started with a Coloring Book or Map Book from the Mobile QSL Bureau in SC, or from the B&B Shop in AZ.

In the beginning, there was only one national award to work toward – the USACA, plus the individual state awards which were very popular. For a few years, after the CHC guy left CQ – there was a competing award for all counties, but it faded after 10 years into oblivion.

Many of the early county hunters were also ‘certificate chasers’ and the state QSO Parties provided loads of paper certificates to chase. After the break up between the CHC award man and CQ, there was a ‘competitive’ award for a short time. A few county hunters actually got it back then. We covered that story in the July 2008 issue.

Likely all that folks then worked on was getting those counties for first time which was a tremendous challenge. In many cases, they didn’t work another mobile in the county if they had it confirmed. There was no reason to do so other than to say ‘hi’.

Around 1970, MARAC was formed to give awards to MOBILES. There were awards for transmitting from X number of counties, or all counties in a state. It was the MOBILE awards organization. Others would step up to second time (which no one had done yet) or Big Rig or other awards that were interesting. Not MARAC. The B&B Shop in AZ sponsored many different awards including Five Star, YL Mobile, and listed all of them in the yearly Directory of County Hunters.

After the PC came along, folks could track counties on it – with “Cherries” using the PEACH data base from B&B Shop, or perhaps their own spreadsheet version of a tracking program.

Later, Kwiklog and its variants came about, which much later turned into MARAC Logger. (just recently in county hunting time).

If you were starting out 20-30 years ago, you tracked your USACA by hand. There were a few other awards to be working on such as Bingo, YL Mobile, Big Rig, but most of the other awards as we know them today did not exist. Some that existed have vanished like the Washington Award for working all the counties named Washington, plus Washington DC.

There was the Five Star award and it had a separate book from the B&B shop to add in the five stars for each county. You’d have several books, one tracking Bingo, one Five Star if you were working on it, another book for Big Rig, etc. Quite a few still track by hand and many others use other programs to track counties for USACA.

Several county hunters sponsored their own awards. The Big Rig was started by regular county hunters, and Ace N9CHU had his own awards. WA0SBR, Ed, had his own award for working him in South Dakota counties. There were 10-20 awards by other individuals you could work toward.

Initially you had to track them all by hand. With the PC programs, you could track Bingo automatically, then other awards as the PC programs got smarter.

Now a new county hunter may quickly acquire MARAC Logger. All of a sudden, when he works a mobile, all sorts of boxes get filled in. He got a prefix. He got a call combo. He got credit for a mode (SSB/CW/Data) and the band for the county.

Quickly, the newcomer realizes there are other awards. Some will get hooked and start working mobiles left and right, just to add them in. Others will only have the time or enthusiasm to go for USACA.

One of the problems that county hunting has had is retaining those who finish the first time. There must be more of a challenge. There must be a reason to stick around. Many DX stations just get the USA-CA-500 and leave. That's enough of a challenge for them.

Some get 'hooked' – maybe 50%. The other half after accomplishing 'the goal' go on to other things. Maybe back to DXing or 160M WAS or VHF.

One of the major things that 'hooked' people was the camaraderie of get togethers. At one point, over 250 would descend upon Murphreesboro TN each fall for a major event – the 3M convention. Sadly, that ended after a wonderful 25 year run. Now, it's hard to get even 1/5<sup>th</sup> that number together. Attendance seems to be 'plummeting'.

(Perhaps the '336' situation, where more are booted in the rear for simple mistakes rather than having the welcome mat extended is one prime reason.)

But IF you get hooked, you are ready to start on the awards ladder!

What do we mean by that? Well, you have to be on the first step before you can get to the second. You have to work all the counties before you can start on second time. For the Master Gold award, you have to have received your Master County Hunter number (Bingo) before you can start that next step on that ladder.

MARAC sponsors about 40 different awards. About 35 of them you can earn simultaneously – ie, you don't have to be on the first stop to be working on them. You can be working on Teams and Prefixes, Call Combos, Big Rigs, Teams, YL Mobile, Single Band, Five Band, Mobile to Mobile, etc, from the 'get go'. From Step zero.

There are some awards that form the 'ladder'. Actually several ladders with different first steps. We are no different than the 10-10 group where you get a "VP" status by working your first 500 10-10 numbers. Other groups have their own ladder of awards.

In addition, as you get more experience under your belt, you discover that each award is a bit tougher than the one before. If you are working on Master Gold (after you get Bingo), you need to work someone in the county who has Master County Hunter status (a Bingo holder), or you can work

someone from the county with Bingo. Not all county hunters have accomplished that. Some days you might not find one there. Maybe you work a new mobile who hasn't done that yet, or maybe one during a state QSO party. That doesn't count. Then again, after you have worked all the counties, you have a lot more experience under the belt and likely are better at snagging those counties you do need.

It gets to be more of a challenge as you go up the ladder of awards. In addition, to get credit for the county by being there, you need to work someone with Bingo. Some days there aren't folks around or propagation doesn't cooperate. Sometimes you miss after driving to a county. It wasn't meant to be a 'no-brainer'. Or 'real easy'.

It's a lot easier now than 30 years ago as over 300 now have Bingo, but that mobile in that county you need may or may not have Bingo! It gets tougher. In addition to just working all the counties, Master Gold requires 1500 'service points', which means lots of work to reach that goal. You can't sit at home just 'collecting' counties and get this award. You have to work for it!

Why have higher level awards? Well, at least two reasons come to mind. Once folks get Bingo, what next? What's the next challenge? If conditions are good, you can work all the counties in 18 months or less. Indeed, some have done in umpteen times in slightly over umpteen years. Some come up with their own variations – no relays or like WA3TUC did one time, working only mobiles with the right call area number in their call in the county. He needed a '4' in KY, and a '7' in MT counties. It took him a while longer to do it. Then again, MP and above awards didn't exist back then.

Working the counties for Nth time is exactly the same after the first. To me, that's like reading the same book over and over again. Others might enjoy the monotony. I'm going to do it five times on cw, then not bother to track it more.

Many mobile ops will desire to get to five stars - that let's them help out folks working toward the Five Star award with lots of stars in every county. More than five is simply icing on the cake. Beyond that? Well, it does nothing unless they create a 10 star award – hi hi. For those who don't go

mobile, well, I guess they can hang the certificates on the wall for umpteenth time if that's what turns them on. Different strokes for different folks.

So the increased challenge is there – just like many things in ham radio – for those who want it. You start with DXCC and 100 countries. Then you work your way up..and up, getting those extra 10 country stickers, or extra 5 country stickers till you are really 'way up' there, then getting on the Honor Roll.

At some point, though you run out of countries - or at least ones that are on the air. You don't get to do it again. You don't get to do it with prefixes or YLs. It gets boring after a while hoping that the one or two countries in the world you need will allow ham radio again, or someone can get there without being shot by nations fighting over some islands somewhere. Your DX buddies won't run over to North Korea to give you a 'last country' either.

What's the other reason for higher level awards? To keep the mobiles running. Heck, if almost no one needs anything for any award, there isn't much reason to go out mobile, is there? After you have run 50,000 or 100,000 miles or more for county hunting, some say, OK, I've done enough. Or maybe done them all. Why go mobile? There's no challenge left for the mobile.

Well, it was soon obvious that people were going to earn the Master Gold Award. (remember you had to have Bingo to even start on this). Gene, K5GE was the first. Only a few were able to do at the start – then before you know it there were a handful with N7BKW, KC3X, N8STF, KC4UG, W3CR, KI0JD, K9DCJ\* among the first 10. (wow, only 2 of those are still active mobile and 2 are silent keys). That wasn't all that long ago, either!

After the first seven were earned, MARAC then created the Master Platinum Award. It was even tougher to earn in some respects, and was designed to STIMULATE mobile activity. For the rest of the CH community though, they could work and get credit for those MP counties from day one. Whether they were a newby op or 30 year long veteran county hunter. You just had to wait for the second part until you got your MG award to run your 500 qualifying counties.



In addition to having to work all the counties with a MG holder (or from the county with a MG holder for MG holders), you had to transmit from 500 separate counties! That is 1/6 th of the country. Not for the squeamish or those who simply sit and home and ‘collect’ counties. But not to worry – MARAC has 35 other awards they can earn, as well as repeat many of them, such as Bingo N, Nth time, etc.

Now, one should note a VERY relevant item here. For those working on both MG and MP, you’ll see that nearly everyone of them made extensive trips to either get the last counties they needed (by going to them), or to get the counties for others working on MP.

For example, K5GE traveled all over the country – from east to west on dozens of trips. W3CR was out running entire states for MP giving everyone those counties. N4AAT likely drove 50,000 miles getting counties for N9STL and N4CD to finish, and both of them drove thousands and thousands of miles getting counties for others. N7ID has done ten thousand miles, maybe double, getting those counties. N2OCW has run all over the country. Probably 300,000 or more miles were put on cars for the dozen or so seriously working on MP. While they were doing it, county hunters likely racked up 50,000 or more contacts, and earned a hundred different MARAC awards in the process. That’s definitely a ‘win-win’ situation.

At this very moment, Ray, AB4YZ is running again all over the west coast, MT, ID, down to TX to get nearly all of his remaining needs for MP. Kent, KL1V will finish his Masters Gold on his current trip – and also finish running all 3077 counties. Now, talk about ‘incentive’. He’ll be one of a handful – number 11 likely- to have run all 3077 counties which is one heck of an accomplishment.

Dan, KM9X will make an 8000 mile trek next month to get his MP needs by going to them. What does this mean for all the other county hunters? Ya got it- the opportunity to snag THOUSANDS of new counties triggered by those half dozen mobiles now intent upon completing the very challenging Masters Gold or Master Platinum Award.

Larry, N2OCW is one away from finishing, needing only 3<sup>rd</sup> AK. Kent, KL1V, will finish up his MG soon. That will allow him to work N2OCW

and give him the last WBOW, too! N7ID is within striking distance on MP. Hollis, KC3X is getting there, too.

So what next? What next to keep those mobiles running and keep up the challenges? What is going to stimulate those big trips? After Kent finishes MG, and transmitting from 3077 counties, what next for him?

Just look at what happened with MG....only 2 of the original 10 are still mobile. At the 'national convention', only 3 of the 40 Master Gold holders bothered to go mobile to the convention and run counties to and from it. (AA9JJ, N9QPQ, N4CD). That doesn't bode well for those working on awards. That's not even 10%! Since AA9JJ and N9QPQ were in the same car, that was even less counties – effectively only TWO of the 40 holders were out running counties. That is 5% folks!

How many Master Platinum holders ran counties to and from the convention? That's in the same percentage range– 10%.

For those who sit at home and 'collect counties', keep in mind that most mobiles on the road are likely spending \$100/day out of their pockets to be county hunting on trips. If 90% of them with the higher awards that will help you finish up loads of MARAC awards decide to sit at home and collect counties or chase DX, instead of running, it's going to be tough, isn't it?

And the expenses easily be more, and just doing HI or AK is a \$2000 or more trip. Let's see....30 days on the road and I can buy myself a new high quality KW amp or new Elecraft K3 transceiver with all the goodies. Another 30 days and I can buy a nice 5 band 5 el beam, tower, rotor, and get it in the ground. Why should mobiles keep running? I'd have a nice station to simply sit home and 'collect counties'.

Why should mobiles keep running once they have reached the 'top of the ladder' and run out of new challenges? Maybe that 10% of MG holders and MP holders will drop even further?

Now some might complain that those that sit at home 'collecting' counties will likely not get Master Platinum. Ever. True. You need to go out mobile and run 500 different counties (no repeats). If you can't do that, well, you won't get it. That leaves 39 other MARAC awards you can earn.

You won't get that particular one. You won't get 'Ran All USA' either, right?

Then again, with my vertical and dipoles, I'm not going to be at the top of the DXCC honor roll either. Should I ask that it be dumbed down so I can get on with 270 countries and that be the top rung? Of course not. Then again, if I sit at home and save my money by not going mobile, in a year or two I can build a DXCC Honor Roll station and go after the weak DX. If everyone makes that choice, well.....

If you have an award beyond Platinum, that requires you get MP first, well, some 'collectors' likely won't get it either. Doesn't bother me. They will benefit on all the other 39 awards that MARAC provides, though, by supporting additional awards beyond Platinum. That's assuming you can keep the mobiles out running.

It seems a few in MARAC would rather do just the opposite, through trash and bash tactics, through intimidation and daily diatribes over the airwaves. Officers of MARAC. Thug mob rule tactics.

That's where we stand today. The Awards Committee proposed the Mobile Diamond Award. It got squashed by the KZ2P thugs rather than approved at the MARAC annual board meeting and is limbo now. The sad part is that the Travesty in TX, described later, caused major damage to the entire county hunting community. We'll cover that in detail later.

So we've talked about the ladder where folks who finish first time now have new challenges. Second time. Third Time. Bingo – then Master Gold – then Master Platinum – then ? The ladder awards are what keeps many of the mobiles running – and running.

No challenges, why bother to go mobile that much? OF course, if someone needs a county nearby, most mobile ops will go get it – if it is nearby...but those 4000 or 10,000 mile trips just 'don't happen'. KM9X won't drive 8000 miles for the 'fun' of it. AB4YZ won't drive 8000 miles for the 'fun of it' only. KL1V isn't driving all over the country only for the 'fun' of it. They set out to accomplish something, and when that is done, what next? What will keep them mobile?

Maybe we'll all go back to sightseeing after first time done and keep the radio turned down.

**It's really just that simple.**

## N4CD Picture Album

Some pics for you to enjoy that I've taken along the way at Dayton or other get togethers.



Bob K0AYO USACA #106

Recently, Alan, KI7WO, took Bob out mobile for a day. It was good to hear him back on the air. It was good to see him again this past month. Of course, when Alan took him out mobile, it was on 40M SSB because the team would not have been welcomed on 14.336. Bob was one of the founding charter members of MARAC.



Ray K5UH

Ray is working hard on his USA-CA on SSB.



Jack, N7IV

Jack is heard occasionally in ND and other rare places putting out the counties on cw. He made it to Dayton this past year to join the other 100 county hunters there. That now seems to be the premier gathering place for county hunters to meet each other.

[Tim, W8JJ, is the Dayton Hamvention Forum coordinator, and Sharon, KJ8F, coordinates the dinner afterwards. ]

## The CHN Quiz of the Month

It's been a while since we have had brain teasers. I picked up an old issue of QST and was rereading some of the articles (or maybe reading them for the first time). One of the articles had to do with adventurous hams visiting the highest point in each state and making at least one contact from the top.

There is an organization called the Radio Adventure Organization

<http://www.adventure-radio.org/>

One of the things they sponsor is the Top of the World Challenge – to see how many can work with HF ham radio from the highest points. Not all have been claimed.

Here's the top of the world page indicating which of the high points have been activated (claimed). Naturally, someone in the past may have been there, but there is no collective memory of it.

Now, some of the high points, you can easily drive up – but others you have to walk or do some hiking – sometimes serious hiking.

We've got 50 states.....so, rather than strain your brains too much, we've listed all the states and all the highest points, and all you have to do is put the right one in the right state!

Here's a list – and the rough height which will give you a clue. There are no 13000 foot mountains in FL.

Mount McKinley – 20,000 feet

Black Mesa - 5000

Mount Ranier – 14,400 feet

Mount Katahdin - 5000

Mount Hood – 11,200 feet

Guadalupe Peak – 7,000

Mauna Kea - 13700

Boundary Peak – 13,000

Mount Sunflower - 4000

Mount Whitney - 15,000

Panorama Point - 5400

Mount Mansfield - 4400

Borah Peak – 12,600

Harney Peak - 7400

Granite Peak – 12,800  
White Butte - 3500  
Gannett Peak - 13,000  
Eagle Mountain - 2300  
Mount Elbert – 14,000  
Kings Peak – 13,500  
Wheeler Peak – 13,000  
Humphrey’s Peak – 12,600  
Mount Washington – 6200  
Mount Marcy 5400  
Driskill Mountain 500  
Mount Magazine – 2700  
Sassafras Mountain - 3700  
Hawkeye Point – 1670  
Mount Greylock – 3500  
Mount Arvon – 2000  
Charles Mound – 1200  
Hoosier Hill – 1200  
Taum Sauk – 1770  
Britton Hill 345  
Woodall Mountain 800  
Cheaha Mountain – 2407  
Brasstown Braid – 4700  
Mount Rogers 5800  
Mount Mitchell 6600  
Backbone Mountain 3630  
Campbell Hill 1500  
Spruce Knob – 4800  
Clingmans Dome 6600  
Ebright Azimuth 300  
Jerimoth Hill – 800  
Mount Frissell – 2400  
High Point 1800  
Black Mountain – 4100  
White Butte – 3500  
Kings Peak – 13500  
Harney Peak - 7420  
Timms Hill - 2000  
Mount Davis – 3200



Now that you can put them all in the right state....How many of them can you drive to the top?

For example, you can drive to the top of High Point in NJ– and Mount Greylock in MA– and operate your mobile rig – within 30 feet of the top elevation – which is taken by a monument, and where they would frown upon antennas – hi hi. You are close enough to be ‘on the top’. You can’t drive to the top of Mt. Ranier. You’d be into major arctic expedition climbing on Mount McKinley to get to the top.

But how many of the highest points in the state could you drive to, and be at a parking lot at the ‘top’ of the mountain? How many have YOU been to?

## New Awards Chairman

KC6AWX, Bob, has been appointed MARAC Awards Chairman effective immediately.

## Annual Awards

The Annual awards are traditionally presented at the Awards Dinner at the national convention each year. Here’s the list of who didn’t receive recognition at the Awards Dinner. The list of awardees was announced later. Well, most of them.

“Here is the complete list of Annual Award winners....”..from AA8R

Best Mobile of the Year – CW

W0GXQ

Best Mobile of the Year – SSB

KL1V

Best Net Control – CW

W0GXQ

Best Net Control – SSB

KZ2P – the operator of club station K2JG

Best Mobile Team

N0KV/N0DXE

Custodian Award: KD9ZP

President’s Award: AA8R”

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The County Hunter of the Year SSB for 2010 was Not announced or presented at the “Awards” dinner. That’s another story in itself. The County Hunter of the Year CW was Not announced or presented at the “Awards” dinner.

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Wow..it turns out there was a CHOTY CW issued. It took a while for that good news to surface. Congrats to Ed,K8ZZ who received CHOTY CW in 2010.

In fact, at the entire convention, as far as I can tell, no one bothered to announce or introduce the new Officers and Directors of MARAC for the coming year.

We'll do it here! We'll have a County Hunter News 'Shout Out'! (heh heh).

Hello Leo, WY7LL, new Vice President!

## The N4CD Annual Awards

Since MARAC leadership (or lack thereof) didn't "get around" to giving out any awards for SSB County Hunter of the Year – we'll, I'll make a few suggestions of who was deserving of CHOTY status and tell you why no CHOTY SSB award was given. It's another story of dastardly deeds by the MARAC "DC lawyah" and Kilo Zulu Two Papa. I suspect you'll find it fascinating. [Unless you are KE3VV or KZ2P or one of his fawning 'chat room chirp along buddies'.]

Let's first review the process by which folks can receive CHOTY. MARAC rules page 15.

"The candidates for the award are nominated by MARAC District Directors. Each District Director may select one nominee for each category (SSB/CW) to be placed on the ballot from among the nominees submitted by MARAC members from that Director's district.

The District Director must receive nominations not later than the end of the fourth month preceding the annual meeting or by the deadline announced in the MARAC newsletter. The District Director must forward his or her selection and reasons for the nomination to the Awards Manager by the middle of the following month.

If the Awards Manager receives more than three nominations for a category, the Awards Committee will select the three nominees for each category for the ballot.”

**If less than three nominations are received from District Directors, the Awards Committee may select additional nominees to bring the number of nominees for the ballot up to three.”**

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So, it is up to the awards committee to select nominees and place them on the ballot even if NO nominations are received in time. Of course, a good CEO/President will remind the Directors, or hold enough meetings so the normal business of GIVING out awards is conducted in a TIMELY fashion. You pay your taxes on time. If your corporation can't get around to filing the tax return ON TIME, there are consequences.

MARAC is the 'Awards' organization with it's sole business to promote and sell awards. You'd think they would focus on that as the Awards presented at the annual convention are the 'highlight' of the Awards Dinner. More on that later.

Were nominations received? Yes, KM9X was nominated for SSB and K8ZZ was nominated for CW.. The other directors were asleep at the switch. Which is pretty bad for an 'awards' organization, and for BOD members who should be looking out for members in their own area. More important, the CEO (President) should have been going down the annual check list of things to do and held enough meetings to make sure things were being done to avert a disaster. Were the Directors in contact with the members in their district? Did they even know who was out and about mobile, or putting in the time running nets on the many CH frequencies? It seems not.

So, once again it looks like the President, who is in charge of making sure business gets done, and the Directors, who only spring into action when there are Board Meetings to actually conduct business and seem to be called out of their comatose state only twice a year by the President to actually conduct any business.....dropped the ball.

Also, as highlighted above, it is up to the Awards Committee to back up the directors even IF NO nominations are received. One for each category was nominated.

Could it be that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Directors and officers barely make it on the air monthly or less, and are clueless?

Does that mean that there were no 'worthy' individuals out there since no CHOTY SSB was given or only one was nominated for CW? Heck, NO! On to Part II. It gets real twisted and crazy.

## History FlashBack CHOTY

First, one must know who was received County Hunter of the Year already. They would be ineligible for CHOTY (but could receive Mobile of the Year award repeatedly). Here's a trip down memory lane – what a bunch of great ops from the past. ( I don't even think you'll find this info on the MARAC web pages, which might be part of the problem). Courtesy of K3IMC Awards Page:

Note – until 1991, only one CHOTY was issued. After 1992, MARAC offered both a CHOTY SSB and CHOTY CW award annually.

1969 WB2SJQ  
1970 K2PFC  
1971 W4HA  
1972 W9SOM  
1973 W0SJE

1974 WA6MAR  
1975 WA6MAR  
1976 W6CCM  
1977 K6BWD  
1978 W0BK  
1979 WB9RCY  
1980 W0GV  
1981 K9DCJ  
1982 WB5YDH  
1983 N0BHO  
1984 N5QQ  
1985 WA3TUC  
1986 KM4W  
1987 KB7QO  
1988 N9DEH  
1989 W4RKV  
1990 W0GOQ  
1991 WB9NUL

1992 K0AYO SSB  
1992 WA6VJP CW

1993 AA4HD SSB  
1993 WA9QNI CW

1994 KB4XK SSB  
1994 W3XE CW

1995 NT9V SSB  
1995 NF0X CW

1996 N4CD SSB  
1996 W3DYA CW

1997 W7LQT SSB  
1997 WU3H CW

1998 KZ2P SSB  
1998 WA4KER CW

1999 AI5P SSB  
1999 KC4UG CW

2000 K2NJ SSB  
2000 KA3MMM CW

2001 K5CWR SSB  
2001 W9MSE CW

2002 KC1NA SSB  
2002 WB4FFV CW

2003 W2NWL SSB  
2003 KN4Y CW

2004 KD9ZP SSB  
2004 W0GXQ CW

2005 WG6X SSB  
2005 CW – none awarded

2006 N8KIE SSB  
2006 W0QE CW

2007 KL1V SSB  
2007 N9JF CW

2008 WQ7A SSB  
2008 KL1V CW

2009 N4AAT SSB  
2009 N9QS CW

2010 – No one SSB\*  
2010 – K8ZZ CW

That list sure brings back memories. Some are still active from way back when. N4AAT, AI5P, W9MSE, KN4Y, W0GXQ, KA3MMM, WB4FFV, WU3H, W3DYA, N4CD, W4RKV.....among them from the past. Note that most of those receiving the award were **mobiles that ran massive amounts**

**of counties or ran the nets or both.** Keep that in mind. It will be important!

Now on to MARAC Follies Part III

## **NO SSB CHOTY in 2010 – the WHY**

For the first time in the history of MARAC, no one was given a CHOTY SSB award in 2010. Were there deserving folks out there? I'd sure suggest that the following folks deserved consideration along with KM9X. Heck, I'm sure if they met more than once a year beside the convention, to get out of their comatose state, with a meeting called by the President...that maybe they would have realized they were headed for disaster with not even having 3 nominations for CHOTY awards in each category. Even then, they had a solution as noted in the awards rules, but no.....

**MARAC: twiddle thumbs...twiddle thumbs....self destruct within with King Davve power battle. A cancer within is killing MARAC.**

The normal procedure is to receive nominations from the membership. Indeed, in the MARAC Road Runner of March 2010

“Nominations are now in order for the 2010 CW and SSB County Hunter Of The Year awards. Nominations must be received by your District Director not later than the end of March and should contain a brief list of reasons for the Nomination. Your District Director will select one nominee from those that are received for both CW and SSB and forward that selection with the reasons for the selection to the Election Coordinator no later than April 15th. Prior winners are not eligible for this award. Please support the members that go out of their way to make this club thrive and advise your Director who you think they are “

It turns out that two were nominated. KM9X was nominated for SSB CHOTY, and K8ZZ was nominated for CW CHOTY. Most of the county



hunters were also unaware or comatose and didn't nominate anyone else for CHOTY in their own districts. In addition, the membership appeared to be in 'watching the spots' mode, and it looks like few even bother to read the RoadRunner these days with it's lack of content. Part of this situation is because the membership wasn't interested enough to nominate the county hunters who they thought were deserving. A boring 'RoadRunner' that most just scan is maybe part of the problem. Maybe those 'windows' to vote that folks forget about is a problem.

Keep that in mind. It gets important.

Then MARAC dropped the ball! Well, it turns out to be more dastardly than that!

**MARAC: twiddle thumbs...twiddle thumbs....self destruct with internal power battles with KE3VV.**

**The Awards Committee had the power to select and place candidates for CHOTY on the ballot, but failed to do so. Maybe if some award committee members spent less time in the 'trash and bash' chat room and focused on 'business', the situation of arriving at convention time with no County Hunter of the Year awards would have been averted?**

So what happened? AA8R, head of the awards committee wished to add more nominations to the two that had been submitted in a timely fashion. Then, the skullduggery of KE3VV and KZ2P commenced!

Davve, after waking up from a comatose state of being a Director, realized he had 'forgot' to nominate anyone. He and "James" wanted their chat room buddy, W5UGD, placed in nomination for SSB CHOTY. [Astute CHNews readers will recall that the CHNews was created to cover the KZ2P dastardly deeds to try and get W5UGD 'appointed' as Vice President seven years ago to cover that fiasco. That episode left MARAC dead in the water

for the better part of six months with neither a President or Vice President unable to conduct any business. See Issue 1]

KE3VV, the DC Lawyah, quickly told Randy that the rules says that the Awards Committee "**MAY**" add additional names, not have to. So based on that, AA8R, the Awards Manager, gave the Awards Committee the option to add additional names or not.

Their opinion was if the membership was so uninterested in nominating any others than the two nominated, and if the Directors had so neglected their responsibilities, why should they then add others? That was the extent of their collective thinking. Or maybe they really didn't want to add W5UGD, who neither went mobile and ran massive amounts of counties, nor ran a net, on the ballot. We'll never know.

On a vote of 8 to 2 the Awards Committee chose NOT to add any additional names to the ballot.

That meant that only one name for SSB and one name for CW were on the list of candidates for CHOTY. Great so far. MARAC would have a nominee for each category. But don't underestimate KE3VV.

That vote upset King Dave, KE3VV because all of a sudden he had wanted to submit a couple of names to the committee. Dave got his lawyah books out. He played "DC Lawyah" again. KZ2P was also yanking Davve's strings because Jimmy wanted to reward his buddy W5UGD. Plain and Simple. He was mad, too, since he had not gotten W5UGD on the ballot.

Of course, it is the awards committee that has the final say on this, and KZ2P isn't on it, but KE3VV is not only a Director (who was snoozing), but is on the awards committee and is the MARAC 'lawyah' to boot. If he couldn't get his way, he'd have vengeance another way.

So when all else fails, try to 'lawyah' your way out of it. Try to confuse the other comatose awards members. KE3VV was already might upset that his little empire had been upset by the Mobile Diamond situation, where 3 'outside experts' were brought in to work on the award rules (W0GXQ, W6TMD, and N4AAT). That made him extra frustrated. He wants to be emperor and you don't 'mess with him' or dare step on the Net Mullah's

cape. How dare those experts be brought in, especially on an award proposed by N4CD!

He started to 'interpret' the rules his way. He invented a new 'interpretation' of non-existent rules out of thin air. He insisted:

“ all rules and requirements for CHOY must be followed and in particular the "**Direct Service to MARAC**", not "Ancillary Service" be adhered to. This "Service to MARAC" must be a major part of the nominee's bio.”

So let's examine this carefully. Let's look at the Masters Gold Award.

To get the Master's Gold award, you can get your 1500 'service points' in 3 ways. Just one of them is to be an officer, Director, or appointee of MARAC such as awards chairman, newsletter editor, election coordinator, historian, or one who helps put on a "MARAC" convention. Keep that in mind. Point 1.

However, the second way is to accumulate net control hours. Running the net produces lots of contacts resulting in the issuance of lots of awards with \$\$\$\$ flowing to the treasury. Perfectly valid way of accumulating 'service points' since MARAC is served and the county hunters are happy to get a relay.

The third way is to accumulate points for running counties. Same as NC time. If you run counties, awards get issued and MARAC makes bucks. Lots of them. Also MARAC has more members since there is more interest. No mobiles is boring. Perfectly acceptable for 'service points' to MARAC and the MG award. Got it? Three ways.

Suddenly, CHOTY was going to get 'interpreted' differently than at any time in history, or the 'service requirements' for the Master's Gold Award.

But wait!

On the MARAC history page at:

<http://www.charchive.com/begin.asp>

Dave writes:

**"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, including maintaining control of a net frequency, keeping a list of active mobiles, announcing mobile call signs and counties, and providing relays"

Note that phrase 'service to MARAC'?

Since Davve was ticked off, interpreted the 'rules' his own special way and convinced enough of the 'chirp along' award committee members to vote with him and Kay Zed to Pee chat room folks—on 'his' interpretation.

He invented this "Direct Service to MARAC" chicken-poop business out of thin air. Oho, it made Jimmy happy because the probably thought that W5UGD would have those 'direct service hours'. Then Davve killed that notion too but he didn't realize it at the time! If your head isn't hurting at the current time, it gets WORSE!

Apparently the awards committee collectively don't have a brain, and most probably called home to "Club of One" HQ in SC for voting instructions. They should have just simply referred to the rules, and the historical precedents.

**Maybe they should have read just the FIRST line of the CHOTY part of the Award Rules?**

**"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."

OK...keep that in mind. **The award is dedicated to a Net Control Station.** Important. Why would you dedicate an award to someone, then later say, oops, we really didn't mean net control hours! Laughable. Even more telling, is there is no dedication for SSB CHOTY! **So the only dedication of the award is to a net control station!**

Since the awards committee voted 8-2 to NOT add more nominees (there would have been only one to vote for in each of the two categories), those two would have been placed on the ballot. But Davve wasn't done with his hissy fit.

At that point, the awards committee was given the task to verify that all nominations qualify for CHOTY based on the "Davve interpretation" (created out of thin air) of rules for CHOTY in the Award Rules - "Direct Service Points". Is there an indirect service point? Who knows but King Davve makes up his own interpretation as he needs to. Got it? DC Lawyer-ing.

Here are the exact rules for CHOTY. Please tell me where it says 'Direct Service', just once!

*Criteria for nomination for County Hunter of the Year include the following:*

*1. 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) or assistant NCS.*

*2. Participation in MARAC activities and service to MARAC and the members of MARAC.*

*3. Other activities in support of county hunting.*

*4. 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.*

Can you find where it says 'Direct' service anywhere? On the contrary, you'll find that putting out counties and running the net are two prime reasons for nominating someone! First and foremost! Number 1. And 'being eligible'.

It lists "participation in MARAC activities" as a criteria.

Did that stop the 'destruct' mode of KE3VV? Nope.

Go back and re-read the above requirements. Do you see anything remotely related to 'direct service' as the primary requirement? Do you see anything remotely related to any requirement for 'direct service'? I didn't either.

The Awards committee, based upon the new super strict and wrong 'interpretation' that Dave just 'made' up, apparently comatose and unable to read the rules themselves, decided that K8ZZ did qualify and KM9X did not because he didn't have the necessary "Direct Service to MARAC".

For the imaginary requirement of 'direct service'.

Really? That's amazing. Suddenly, the A/C had to be dancing on the head of a pin debating how many angels would fit. Pushing the yet to be designed camel through the needle's eye by committee.

Let's see. Not only did KM9X run the net for hundreds of hours, which qualify for 'Service Points' in the Master's Gold award rules (service to MARAC or county hunters), he also put out likely 1000 counties which also qualifies as 'service points' to the county hunting community. By any sane person's analysis, it clearly met the requirements for 'qualification' for CHOTY under net control. Not only that, but Dan put out likely 1000 counties, too. That doubly qualified him.

Add in his attendance at county hunter conventions, and that triply qualifies him. But no, Jimbo and James were having a hissy fit since they weren't able to add their buddy W5UGD to the list!

Dave should have 'interpreted' the rules better. It does not say DIRECT service to MARAC. It says service to MARAC and the county hunting community. Dan easily met that two ways. Add in conventions and that is 3 ways. Add in giving out teams QSO with KB9MGI and that is four ways.

In the past, that has never been a requirement of this imaginary 'direct service' bit, and most who have received CHOTY never were an officer, director or appointee of MARAC. Go back in history and review for yourself. [For a few years, (when KZ2P was on the BOD before), the BOD started giving each other the CHOTY nominations. Guess it is back to that incestuous situation once again.]

What is says in rules under point 2 is:

“Participation in MARAC activities and service to MARAC **and the members of MARAC.**” I don’t see where it says ‘primarily DIRECT service to MARAC’ and then we might think about considering other things’. Do you?

But wait! How did K8ZZ qualify if KM9X didn’t. Ed ran counties. Ed helped out as NC. But what else did Ed do?

Were KM9X and K8ZZ active participants in MARAC? Yep, they attended MARAC conventions. They participated in the awards programs.

But this is even MORE AMAZING!

Did K8ZZ do ‘direct service to MARAC’ by hosting minis? Not according to Davve! Now, this is where it gets interesting.

Well, according to Davve: **“The Minis are not MARAC events.. So the Michigan Mini or any other Mini may be service to county hunting and county hunters, but it is not service to MARAC”**. (via email)

Your head should be about ready to explode at this point! So should his!

It takes hundreds of hours of planning to put on the minis. The effort starts more than a year ahead with the need to find and then sign a contract with the hotel. Then more effort to advertise it, register people, take care of room reservation problems, arrange for a banquet and other interesting activities. But wait! Even though mostly MARAC members attend, it, according to Davve doesn’t count for ‘service points’ for CHOTY. Minis aren’t MARAC functions.

This presents an interesting quandary.

But first let us note that Ed, K8ZZ helped host the last THREE minis in Michigan?

Oh, wait....by Davve’s fine print interpretation that didn’t count. Not one bit!

I wonder then why MARAC spends 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of its annual budget mailing out RoadRunners with pages full of descriptions of the Minis, and with pages for registration at the minis, when they are not MARAC events? Where you cannot get ‘direct service points’ for CHOTY credit? (heh heh). Or even ‘indirect service points’ (we made that up just like Davve) to MARAC? He says no.

The Road Runner sure doesn’t even mention the County Hunter Forum at Dayton. It’s equally non-MARAC according to him. So how can he speak out of both sides of his mouth at the same time. Ya got it – selective ‘lawyaring’. Selective lawyaring. So on one hand, certain minis are ‘advertised’ for free but aren’t MARAC “direct service point’ functions, but MARAC spends thousands a year promoting them in the RoadRunner (\$55 per print mail member or a couple thousand a year). It’s ludicrous, right? Ya got it. Stoopid logic at work. Well, demented logic really. DC Lawyah-ring logic at work.

Now, at one time K8ZZ was on the ‘awards committee’ but left it over a year ago after a year’s service. Is that truly the difference of ‘direct service’? You going to pick nits on that issue?

Davve just shot himself in the foot, ass, groin, heart, and worse.

His circular logic cannot justify approving one, but not the other since no amount of hours of work on minis counts as “Direct Service” since they are not MARAC events!

So if those mini’s don’t count for ‘direct service’ or even indirect service, both K8ZZ and KM9X have the same ‘bio’. Running loads of counties and being net control.

Isn’t that truly amazing? Yet one was disqualified, and the other qualified. Likely Dan had MORE hours by far of net control time.

I guess all the effort the folks put on in Michigan and South Carolina is ‘irrelevant’? Oh, and the TX mini too?

Davve gives those folks the one-fingered salute. Then he turns around and says ‘well, K8ZZ qualifies because he was on the award committee for a



year'. Has your head exploded yet? And we haven't finished skewered the award committee yet.

KM9X was found 'not qualified by Davve' and his name was removed from the ballot. You did not see anyone listed for SSB CHOTY on the ballot. Nada. Zip.

But it gets even more interesting. According to Davve's logic, W5UGD would not have been qualified. Those minis in South Carolina are not official MARAC functions so any effort and time don't count. Remember? So has W5UGD run massive amounts of counties? Nope. Run the net for a thousand hours last year? Nope.

Good luck, guys and gals, you've just been kicked in the butt by your MARAC board and the KE3VV DC Lawyah 'interpretation'. Even worse, the rules were interpreted differently for one candidate compared to the other. The imaginary lack of 'direct service' credits were used to disqualify KM9X.

If you look at history as a guide, look at the past 15 years of who has received CHOTY. Did KC1NA, W0QE, KL1V, N9QS, N9JF, WB4FFV and the raft of others who received CHOTY have 'direct service to MARAC'? Were they officers? Directors? Major contributors to MARAC? Really? More than KM9X?

Was this a new 'made up' interpretation by Davve to 'get his way' and get to vengeance for the late nominees that he forgot and didn't get? Of course. Jimmy wanted Percy or W5UGD to get CHOTY. Then again, neither of them had 'direct service' to MARAC in 2009/2010 according to Davve, and would have been disqualified by Davve IF he applied the same criteria. Or course, then he would have kept his double dealing lips shut.

W5UGD had never held an office at MARAC, nor put on a national convention, nor written the newsletter. He wouldn't qualify now or in the future according to Davve. Keep that in mind for next year!

Even though W5UGD has done a lot of work on the SuperHosts web site, MARAC does not sponsor that website. Indeed, I see nothing in the rules where W5UGD gets any 'direct service points' even by having one of the two spotting services. If I am not mistaken, W0MU is "the official

MARAC webmaster.” So by Davve’s interpretation, W5UGD could never even qualify for CHOTY. Even though the chat room is called ‘@MARAC’ chat room, I’m sure MARAC doesn’t sponsor a chat room (trash and bash) or either of the two spotting sites. Therefore, no ‘direct credits’. No eligibility. Run the ‘board chat room’ for 2 meetings a year? I doubt that 2 hours of ‘service’ a year, even if they could figure out a way to count it, qualifies anyone for ‘significant contribution’.

**Doesn’t that make you really proud to be a member of MARAC? You got the one finger salute. If Davve can’t get his way on Master Diamond, or CHOTY nominations, he’d rather you have NOTHING. Same for Jimm – if he doesn’t get his way, he gives the county hunters the one-finger salute. There’s a cancer there.**

**Even sadder, Davve contradicted himself on the two decisions!**

**What is even sadder is that the Awards Committee members couldn’t bother to read the rules themselves and discover there is no ‘requirement’ for ‘Direct’ service anywhere in the CHOTY rules.**

That is why there is no CHOTY SSB in 2010. That is why KM9X was nominated but didn’t receive the award.

The awards committee blindly followed like sheep to the slaughter. Or should be say blundered the whole way there?

On to part IV of the MARAC Follies. The skewering has just begun.

## Who should have been considered?

So who could have been nominated in addition to KM9X for SSB and K8ZZ for CW? Well, we should add that KM9X was found to be unqualified for the simple reason that Jimmy couldn’t get his buddy W5UGD on the ballot. But who SHOULD have been there for consideration?

From the district of Davve, KE3VV –

**Ray, AB4YZ**, who took many major trips, also getting over 500 counties run for Master Platinum, and making major trips over the entire country several times in 2009. Both SSB and CW - but tough to hear with the mini screw driver low ERP antenna. Many got frustrated by not even hearing a peep from his extremely directional mobile in hundreds of counties out west, but he put in effort running counties. Ran more on SSB than cw. A for effort, D- for mobile signal.

**NX4W, Lloyd**, who not only put out hundreds and hundreds of counties, including entire states on SSB, but also on PSK-31 for those seeking the MARAC Digital Award. Consistent fine operator.

**Greg, NM2L**. Greg has been very active on weekends and evenings running and helping out on CW nets. He's been a consistent spotter, and took many major trips in 2009 running hundreds of counties. He's a fine CW op and runs a mobile that is consistently good.

**Art, N4PJ**. Art has started running entire sections of states, and is planning major runs through NE, KS and elsewhere. Maybe a late starter for 2009, but surely on the radar for 2009.

That is at least three that are 'eligible' for CHOTY in Davve's district alone!!!!!! Did he serve **his membership** by neglecting them? Overlooking them? Not getting them nominated in a 'timely fashion'?

Next year, probably W4SIG will be on the list, but Kerry only got started in 2010 running like the Energizer Battery all over the country!

It sure looks like Davve was more than 'asleep' at the switch, as he had time to trash and bash the Awards Chairman, obstruct and delay the implementation of the Mobile Diamond Award and others...but neglected his duty as Director and to all the people in his district by not nominating a single person for County Hunter of the Year either CW or SSB **in a timely manner**. Even worse, he's the chief legal beagle and is the first to 'read the rules' to any and everyone, so should have been fully aware of the need to get MARAC business done in a timely fashion.

Surely as the chief 'rules reader' Dave should have let the President know of impending crisis, and work with the rest of the awards committee (he was on it) to select candidates. Instead, he did just the opposite.

Instead, he got upset that he forgot to nominate someone in a timely fashion, then when AA8R suggested that 2 more be added, he killed the entire process with KZ2P's chirp alongs. NONE showed up on the ballot for SSB because they couldn't have the chat room way.

He came up with a mightily strange inconsistent with history amazing 'interpretation' with no precedent, disqualified one excellent candidate on a whim. Go back and review the list of CHOTY awards .....tell me how many of them had 'direct service' to MARAC as Davve seems to dream is a requirement. Tell me how many of them got CHOTY for being a net controller.

So you can thank KE3VV along with the chat room chirp-alongs for making sure no SSB CHOTY was given out in 2010. That's a shame for KM9X who was nominated, then torpedoed by KE3VV and KZ2P who couldn't get their candidates on the ballot. The membership lost. The mobiles lost. No wonder almost no one went to the National. The membership is constantly being screwed by MARAC. One finger salute.

Are you enjoying it?

But who else could have been on the list of nominees? Let's continue

#### From the Great Lakes Area

**Larry, N2OCW**, who drove 26,000 miles in 2009, and put out over 1500 counties. Larry is also one county away from earning the Master Platinum award, having transmitted with qualifying contact from over 500 separate counties. Certainly a candidate for SSB CHOTY. A for effort, A for good signal.

#### From the North Central Area

**N9STL, Joyce.** Joyce ran hundreds of counties in 2009. She put in countless hours helping/running mobiles on 7188 working with Joe, N5UZW and others, or running the net by herself. She was a consistent spotter, and helped run mobiles off frequency on 20M consistently. One of the most active stations with excellent signal and operation.

From the district of KC6AWX - Pacific

**Darrel, W6TMD** SSB or CW or both. Darrel made major contributions to county hunting, putting out thousands of counties, including a trip to AK that finished off dozens. First to run 30M CW mobile in Second AK. He's run all over the western USA, earned the Master's Platinum award. In 2009, he was very active chasing counties on 40M with a booming signal and consistently helped out on 20M CW spotting and running mobiles and helping with relays.

**AB7RW, Phil.** He's consistently been on the CW nets, spotting and helping with relays. He's run hundreds of counties helping out with the rarer counties in OR, WA, and making major trips back east running counties to and from conventions.

Apparently, the Director was 'asleep at the switch'.

**MARAC: twiddle thumbs...twiddle thumbs....ignore members. Lie in a comatose state for most of the year.**

From the South Central

**N5UZW, Joe** for SSB CHOTY. Joe has put in thousands of hours running the SSB net on 40M in superb fashion. In fact, he was SSB NC of the year in 2009 for his prior work. He has run hundreds of counties and is closing in on MP getting 500 qualifying counties. He's got a consistent good signal from the mobile and does a great job of putting out counties all over the south east.

From the Northeast District, AB2LS

**Eddie, G4KHG** for SSB or CW CHOTY. Eddie has made major trips each year to the USA from England, carrying radio gear and antennas along. He's run from the HI Islands, put out counties on 30M as well, and has been spotted in a couple hundred western counties on SSB and CW over the years. A long time member of MARAC, he's consistently tried to put out the counties as he travels annually in the US. He's worked all counties five times.

Maybe there are more you would have put on the list?

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It seems like MARAC was 'more than asleep' at the switch with a comatose leadership under WB9NUL, Joyce, President, and the chief trouble maker KE3VV who reads the rules, then invents new ones out of thin air, and abuses them. Seems he was more concerned with abusing the awards chairman, being in the 'trash and bash' chat room for endless hours, than realizing it was up to him to provide nominees in his area. When the awards committee could have come up with nominees on their own if insufficient others if none or not enough were nominated in timely fashion by the membership, and then could get them published months prior to the meeting for members to vote on, did it happen? Nope. KE3VV torpedoed that possibility with help from the 'chirp alongs' who call Club HQ in SC for voting instructions.

Rather than providing the membership with nominee's, King Davve KE3VV and King James KZ2P and chirp along puppets zeroed out KM9X out. . Was it that if Percy or W5UGD couldn't be on the list, no one could. Was that it? What a shame!

**MARAC: twiddle thumbs... it looks like KE3VV gave the one finger salute to the entire membership. Same with KZ2P. He and Percy haven't gloated about that 'victory' though yet.**

On to Part V of the MARAC Follies –

Before the break, though, keep in mind that later in the Marac Follies, the excuse for not doing anything is ‘we need to seek more member input’. Dang.....if there ever was a time, when there were very few nominees for CHOTY, that was the time to seek ‘member input’. It wouldn’t have taken much time to ask around (for those who are actually on the air) to see if there were other deserving of recognition county hunters out there. Right?

Keep in mind that the membership actually gets to vote on who becomes CHOTY. This will be an important point. Keep it in mind! You’ll see KE3VV contradict himself once again later.

## The N4CD Choices

Well, who would have N4CD put on the ballot? (only 3 allowed)

I’d think it would be for CHOTY SSB - N5UZW, N9STL, and N2OCW. AB4YZ, KM9X honorable mention. (typically only one from each region is on the ballot). Tough choices. (AB4YZ would get dinged for never even trying to clean up all the needs within 150 mile radius of his house and not make the top 3. ) N9STL and N2OCW are on both CW and SSB, too.

I’d give a nomination to Lloyd, NX4W for CHOTY Digital (hey, this is the CHNews! There is no such MARAC annual award. <g> Yet.)

I’d put AB7RW, K8ZZ and NM2L on the ballot for CW CHOTY.

It would be tough to pick just one, but unfortunately MARAC gave us a choice of none of the above. Instead, you got the one finger salute.

**MARAC: twiddle thumbs...twiddle thumbs....comatose.....dropped the ball on this one – badly. Failed the membership. Cheated KM9X out of a chance for CHOTY 2010. Way to go guys and gals on the awards committee. The membership was given the one finger salute.**

That was just one of the reasons why AA8R, Randy, decided to resign as Awards Chairman. Also why NX4W left his office as elections coordinator

– a comatose membership that only wakes up when their alarm program goes off for a needed county, and a membership that doesn't bother to read the monthly RoadRunner. [The CHNEws is happy to step in and fill the void with fun packed monthly issues].

All together say: Thank you Jimmy and Davve for the stoopidity, double dealing, underhanded treatment. Even if the membership is comatose, it would seem that issuing awards should be **job one**. Getting new ones done should be **job one**.

Next time your RoadRunner comes, think of what your MARAC Secretary (KZ2P) and SE Director (KE3VV) are doing to you in stead of doing for you. When you hear MARAC Officers on the air calling members 'perverts', and their chirp alongs posting or blabbing on the air about "N4 Seedy" or 'witches' or 'riding broomsticks' [snasty reference to the KI0JD net run off episode] and similar.....well, does that organization deserve any respect?

What is really sad is that there are some dedicated folks at MARAC including the Treasurer Terry, WQ7A, Vice President Leo, WY7LL, Directors of the South Central Ross (N0ZA) and North Central (Cliff AC0B), former Awards Chairman AA8R, just retired VP AD8W, who were/are sincerely interested in providing the best for the County Hunting Community. Unfortunately, the actions of the few of the others results in a bad outcome like you have just seen.

You have others who spent countless hours hosting minis and conventions, working hard all during the year, to provide a nice venue for county hunters to meet, and much of that is torpedoed by the actions of just a few who leave bad impression of the entire organization. However, it's not the end of the dastardly deeds by King Jim and King Davve. . We continue after a break! You ain't seen nothing yet!

## Grand Solar Alignment and Sunspots



An interesting paper appeared that suggested the grand alignment of the planets in 2012 (maybe part of the Mayan Doomsday Scenario) is affecting the intensity of the sunspot cycle.

Here's a bit from the paper:

“Solar system dynamics have been postulated as the main solar driver for many decades. Jose was the first to associate a recurring solar system pattern of the 4 outer planets (179 years). He suggested this pattern correlates with the modulation of the solar cycle. New research via this study suggests that over the past 6000 years the 179 year cycle cannot be maintained and is closer to a 172 year cycle which aligns with the synodic period of Uranus & Neptune (171.44 years). Later Landscheidt progressed the planetary influence theories further by associating quasi-cyclic negative torque readings or “zero crossings” (AM readings going below zero) that can occur near grand minima”

“Cycles 24 & 25 are predicted to be less than 50SSN using the Layman's Sunspot Count (based on the SIDC values but ignoring specks rated lower than 23 pixels). Solar cycle 20 was the first stage of the current AMP group which failed to generate a full grand minimum because of the very weak AMP event caused by the late timing of the Uranus/Neptune conjunction and the failed Wilson's Test. The current AMP group does not display a third event which is extremely rare and hence will allow a modest recovery during solar cycle 26. Looking out further, the next 1000 years do not show any major chances for deep grand minima which should provide stable conditions for future generations, notwithstanding the possible entry into the next ice age.”

Article at: <http://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1005/1005.5303.pdf>

Worth taking a look-see.

In their results, they predict that this will be a miserably poor sunspot cycle and might even peak in March 2011, then start to decline! No joy according to them for the next 20 years until Cycle 26. Your kids and grandkids may get to enjoy it. Or the next one or the one beyond, then again we could go 100plus years without sunspots like the 1600s.

# Is Five Stars the End for Mobiles?

Wow....I did some digging into the database of five star holders. It's a bit scary. Some stats are alarming. Joe, WB0CQO, just finished his fifth star and announced he is hanging up his county hunting hat and going off to do other things in ham radio. County Hunting has no more interest or challenges for him. For others, is five stars about it before they vanish into oblivion for one reason or another?

Some stats from the MARAC database:

Of the first 20 people to reach five star status, how many do you think have put out a single county in 2010?

Well, let's start with who is still on the air of the first 20 or so. Scottie, N4AAT is. Mitch, W4RKV gets on from home. KG5J and AK8A, too.

As far as I can tell, only 2 of the first 20 have been mobile in 2010. To be fair, these folks earned those five stars before 1995, and that is 15 years ago. That's a 90% attrition rate. Does it get better?

Let's look at the next 20. G4KHG, Eddie, is on while mobile in the US. Alan, K8CW, is on from home as is KD8HB. Two others from home and one other has gone mobile on one short trip. So that is only 2 of the next 20 who have gone mobile! Nothing has improved. The last one in the group earned the fifth star in 1999, or a bit over ten years ago. A tremendous drop out rate of active mobiles. Another 90% attrition rate.

So on to the next 20. N4UJK is on from home. N9QS is on from home and mobile. KC3X and WG9A have been both mobile and on from home. WB9STT is on from home. Wow...we are up to 3 in 20 that are still mobile, and only 5 of 20 still active on the air. The last one in that group got the fifth star in 2002, or 8 years ago. We are down to 85% attrition rate for mobile activity.

So lets look at 61-80. Nothing out of WA4WQG, W0RRY, ND3T or N8STF this year. N4CD is on as well as WD9EJK, K5VYT mobile. W6TPC is on

from home. The last of that group got their number in 2006. So of that active bunch who did get 5 stars, 3 are still mobile out of 20, and 4 of 20 are still on the air. Better, but far from great! That means still an 85% attrition rate of active mobiles yet!

How does the last bunch do – from 80-97. Fortunately, that's a bit better. KA3MMM is still on from home but not spotted mobile in years. N9STL, Joyce, still both active at home and mobile. KC6AWX gets on to work KL1V from home, otherwise no, but not spotted mobile in years. K7REL on from home, but no mobile spots. AA9JJ always mobile and active, N8CIJ from home but not mobile this year.

KE3VV, W9GUY W7KQZ, and N2OCW ,N0ZA. AE3Z both mobile and home.

So at least we can say that of the last group, that 8 of 17 have made it out mobile in 2010. Some not for very many counties – but at least they got out once in 2010. That's still not very impressive since all of these folks got their fifth star within the last few years. 50% attrition rate of mobiles. You're either gone for one reason or another.

What's more amazing, if you look at the sixth time holders, of all 33 of them, only N9STL, N4CD, AK8A, N4AAT, N9QS, WD9EJK, and one other have been spotted out mobile on W6RK in 2010. That other on one on short trip and the only one trip in over two years. Most of the folks have earned that sixth star in the last 10 years.

If you look at 7<sup>th</sup> time, it's the same mobiles putting out the counties. N4AAT, N9QS, N4CD, WD9EJK, and KC3X. [Oh, and that one other JPR something or other who just made one short trip in two years. If you average out his counties transmitted per day, it is under 0.2 or negligible] .

Larry, N2OCW, five star holder, indicated that when he finishes up Platinum, he is going to go on to other things. He's spent enough time on the radio and the major trips last year, and now figures it's time to spend more quality time with the XYL. Another long time mobile op leaving our hobby.

What can we conclude? Is five stars the end of the line for many? Do too many quit at or before earning their fifth star? Do they run out of

challenges? Or are too many run off the nets as they get more stars? Who knows the answer, but it is sad to see so many old friends no longer active mobile, and in many cases...not even on the air. Is Joe WB0CQO typical, earning five stars and deciding 'that's enough' and hanging it up? Didn't Darrel, W6TMD just do the same? And Ray, WG6X? and a whole bunch of others?

There are over 1200 now with USACA. Many go on to get second time (over 300) but it falls exponentially after that. Can we learn something from this? Is the 'fun' gone? Is the camaraderie gone?

## RoadRunner Print Edition Ends

The MARAC RoadRunner will be only 'on-line' in the near future. As subscriptions for first class mail editions expire, they will not be renewed and no new memberships with mailed print editions will be accepted. This action was approved by the BOD at the annual meeting. Costs have 'skyrocketed' to mail it and the subscription price covers less than ½ the actual cost to print and mail it. Analysis showed it costs \$55/yr per print mail member and the dues for that are only \$19/yr.

The Road Runner now joins the County Hunter News On-Line as a web based publication. The difference is you have to pay to receive it, it's limited only to dues paying members, while the County Hunter News is still brought to you free and provides 'fair and balanced' news, science tidbits, upcoming events, coverage of mobile operations, technology updates, etc. to anyone interested in county hunting worldwide.

## On the Road with N4CD I

I decided to take a trip to south Texas. That turned out to be a big mistake. Probably it won't happen again. N8KIE and Jaci came up with the same impression, too.

Joyce, WB9NUL, and Barry, W9UCW, with a small staff of dedicated volunteers have hosted many 'minis' in south TX, and this was a 'national' convention. A lot of advance planning and work goes into making it happen. Those folks deserve a round of 'Attaboys' for that.

Folks needed a few counties along the way. Some CW folks were headed that way so we could yak a bit with eyeball QSOs.

My original plans got shifted, and I wound up staying only two nights there in south TX. Well, after the Diamond fiasco started, I just didn't feel like staying there 4 nights, honestly. No need to stick around when MARAC can't seem to get its act together. There was an impending feeling the county hunters were about to receive the one finger salute from WB9NUL. I apparently wasn't alone as projected attendance was listed as only 29 in the July RR. Really hardly worth going. That's the best MARAC seems to be able to do these days.

Going down was uneventful – it's a nine hour drive if you don't stop, but I figured I'd take two days. As usual, I got bogged down with a massive traffic jam for some reason in Dallas, losing 45 minutes just creeping and crawling for no obvious reason on a weekday at 10am. Then it was clear sailing. I had planned to go through Bell County, which WQ7A needed, but Bob, N8KIE got there the day before, so that wasn't needed.

South TX is run and run when there is the Spring mini down there. I ran on 17 meters quite a bit. I snaked on down the west side of the interstate running some I had not run recently, so I hope folks got some new ones – maybe on 17M.

No one knows what will happen with the Master Diamond Award – the cooked up controversy by Davve, KE3VV, started 3 weeks ago, as we noted in the last issue of the County Hunter News, and that we'll cover that travesty separately. At any rate, I usually try and put the county out on 2 or 3 bands – sometimes 4 – 20/17/30/40, and occasionally on SSB.

If I have already run it on 17M, the gang that hangs out on 17M likely won't rush to work me again there. Same for 30M and 40M. K5GE added a 17M resonator to his antenna system. He's running now on 18.127 or .130 and getting a handful of contacts up there. Kent will be on 17M cw on his trip to CA. That's good for those hunting band counties to run up their totals on W6RK TopList page! If they don't need the mobile on 20, now there's a reason to go looking for them on 17! Or 30 or 40m.

I was running the normal antenna with five resonators on a six foot mast, and a 20M SSB antenna and 40M SSB antenna on separate mag mounts. There was a 'friendly' net running on 14.336 since "James" took the week off.

**As Percy noted on the air, "James" left at 3 am in the morning on 'his broomstick' to get to Texas.** He was gone most of a week, and by golly, 14.336 ran like clockwork without him. WA9DLB, N3HOO, KC3X, N4AAT, N9STL, N5UZW, W0MU, and others were helping out the dozen mobiles running. It actually ran better since so many were participating and helping out, and no one was excluded. Everyone got a relay. Not one mobile was run off, told to QSY, or screamed at the entire week! Peace and quiet and everyone felt welcome.

The first day it rained lightly in the afternoon. Weather was good traveling weather the first day. K5GE was off on a trip to MT the next day to do some sightseeing.

I hit the town of Boerne along the interstate and found a nice older motel. Many are now owned by Indians (from Asia) and most (not all) are in reasonable condition and with reasonable prices. The folks who own them (typically extended families) manage them well despite them often being off the beaten path or having competition from Holiday Inns, Comfort Inns, etc. They help each other buy other motels. It's nice to see industrious Americans rather than the generations of welfare weenies that seem to think they are 'entitled' to everything and leech money out of taxpayers – you and me. I probably stay at 20-30 motels like that a year as I travel around the country.

There weren't too many places for dinner, so I visited the Denny's. Then back to the motel. That night it probably rained a few inches. In the

morning, I was hungry so I headed to Denny's for a big 'Grand Slam' breakfast and some coffee. Ask for AARP or senior discount, too! I then drove south for a while arriving at the Best Western in late afternoon.

It rained that day...and at some points it poured with road conditions so bad it was down to 20-30 mph on the main 4 lane highway that is 75 mph in south TX. This weather was the tail end of the 'tropical disturbance' in the gulf. Of course, the week before southern TX had received the tail end of Hurricane Alex with 6 to 12 inches of rain, so things were sopping wet, and the humidity was pegged at 100%.

The 20M SSB antenna ( nice Hustler mast and 20M resonator on top) disappeared from the mag mount on top of the car after one stop for 15 minutes at a combination gas/food store in South TX under mighty mysterious circumstances. Hmmm. Verry Suspicious. Just another reason for not heading back that way soon.

I arrived on Friday and checked in. Only a handful of people were in the hospitality room. I then headed over to dinner at Lin's Chinese Buffet – good value for your money if you travel down that way. Better than the Golden Corral, too.

On Saturday, there was the travesty of a MARAC official annual meeting which we'll cover separately. A handful of people attended. No CW meeting, but the handful of CW ops present included N4JT, K5OH, KY0E, NX0X, AF3X, W3DYA, N4CD, and AB7RW. Barry, W9UCW, gave a talk on antennas.

Jeffrey AF3X was setting up his temporary mobile in the rental car with the mini hamstick type antenna on a single magnet mount. It travels well being that small. The antenna is only 3-4 foot high or so. He runs the radio off the cigarette lighter, but has to set power back to less than 50w. Most lighter outlets will only give you 10amps. He got a very raspy 'note' with the radio set at 100W. I caught him in a few on CW on Sunday.

Apparently, it turns out one or two there got likely food poisoning, too, at the restaurant down the street at lunchtime. They recovered and made it home.

The dinner started at 6pm. There were a major problems getting all the food distributed, but often seems to be the case with banquets. Those who had chicken were done with dinner before the dinner arrived for those who ordered fish. It was not the best service by the staff at the Best Western.

After nearly 3 hours, all the door prizes, the pre registration price (only 9 folks pre registered), the main prizes (transceivers, MFJ antenna analyzer, GPS unit) were given out, the cash prize given out, then it was over and folks got up and headed toward the door.

Only then did someone point out to WB9NUL, MC, that this was the 'Awards Dinner', but alas, no awards were there to be given out. Nor were they announced at the Awards Dinner. Another screw up.

That's the first time in MARAC history that no CHOTY SSB was given out. That's 'historic'. That's 'unprecedented'. It's tragic.

As folks were leaving, it was announced the awards would be announced and given out in the hospitality room later.

Well, it was getting late (after 9) and many folks just headed back to the rooms. I had spent enough hours yakking on Saturday, and I'm not a drinker so no reason to stick around for 'free' booze – what remained. I hit the hay at 10pm.

On Sunday, I was up early (5:30am) and got things ready to go. The restaurant opens at 6am, and 'free' breakfast is included in the rate, so I partook of that quickly, then was on the road by 6:45 headed north. My route included a bunch of counties east of I35, some I had not put out lately– which meant I had not run them in 2 years or more. So I ran them. Folks need them.

Sadly N8KIE ran home with the radio turned off after the travesty in TX on the MD award. He posted a note on the K3IMC forum saying you won't hear him mobile again. Ever. Talk about a 'kick in the butt' to one of the most active mobiles.

Phil, AB7RW was headed out home, and W4SIG was going like the Energizer Bunny in UT, ID, MT. AB4YZ was headed west, having wisely skipped the convention, and Greg, NM2L was headed south from VT. His



keyer broke, so he was hand sending code on a key. There might have been some running on SSB, but I was busy enough just on cw bands trying to run a few before I was out of the county.

It was uneventful headed home. I wanted to be home through the Dallas Metroplex and the S9 noise when Barry N0KV and Pat, N0KV got to the Second District (planned for 2200Z or so) . I needed a team up that way, and never hurts to log the prefixes, call combos, etc. I headed to a big park where the local club has field day – you can get ½ mile from any power line, and it is high and flat with giant parking lots.

That was a lot less miles from home than the last time I was trying to work Second AK the last time – that was when I headed to SD to work W6TMD on 30M in Second AK.....and sat in an old drive in movie theater in Tripp County SD – and did relays for half an hour it seems on CW from the mobile. Bill, K2NJ was so happy to get a relay and work Darrel on 30M that he didn't come back down to Earth for 24 hours after. Wowie! That was fun then. Four people finished up working all counties on 30M shortly afterwards.

That was one of the “AK adventures’ of county hunters. (We covered the trip of W6TMD/KB6UF in a previous issue of the CHNews if you want to enjoy it again). Once again, I was sitting in a parking lot - the home QTH at 5pm has S3 power line noise when it is 100 deg outside with every a/c unit sucking maximum power and causing power line heating/arcing. That's about how strong sigs from a mobile are – if you are lucky – on a vertical antenna. So as county hunters, we can improvise or go mobile!

I sat and waiting and they were ‘in there’ but not tremendously strong. With my mobile antenna, they were about 50-70% copy. You just had to call at the right time when they were up, but I took a relay to get the team on SSB. That first run must have taken a half hour or 45 min, and dozens got through. From being in AK, it's amazing – you copy the weakest signals with ease (no power lines within 10 miles) and low noise on the band. Down in the lower 48, the band noise is higher and of course nearly everyone has power lines – some quiet, but many humming away in the high temps. Many, many got them.

Then Barry switched over to CW and ran a giant pile. Hollis, KC3X was running them on both SSB and CW. I helped out a bit on SSB relaying in a few that weren't heard, then did the same on CW with 'double relays'. That was their first run, and there would be putting it out few more runs in the next day. Barry was spotted on 17M and tried 15M on Monday- didn't see a spot there, but that doesn't mean someone didn't get them there. Didn't hear them on 17M either at my QTH. I need a beam!

Then it was off to Cici's Pizza. It was Sunday night, after all! Even better, I think almost every county hunter that was around that needed Second AK had gotten through during one of the runs if they were on the air! It doesn't get any better.

So that's the mobile trip of the month - not a whole lot to write home about, and very few bothered to show up for the National, and likely if more did they would have been disappointed or horrified by the kick in the butt 'annual meeting' and the 'lack of awards Award Dinner' dinner. You didn't miss much by sitting this one out.

I doubt whether I'll head to south TX for any more conventions if they are run like this one. It seems the vast majority of county hunters made the right choice by sitting this one out or traveling elsewhere. The membership got the 'one finger salute' and were treated to the worst MARAC meeting in history, but that story later. Of course, things could change. For the better. So far, the 'hopey changey' thing isn't working anywhere. With KZ2P back on the board, there seems to be only one way to go.

Soon, we'll be back to state QSO party season, and you can put Dayton Hamvention on your calendar for next May as the best place to meet all the other county hunters. In a few months, the new Awards Chairman will probably have it figured out, the spotting sites will still go along and many county hunters will be awoken from their slumber when a needed county shows up. The DX will be there as well as the Century Club. Life goes on. August is a good month with lots of QSO Parties, and still summer weather to travel and enjoy the scenery.

# Forum Input

From the K3IMC Forum posted by K7REL, Tom

I think N4CD deserves an apology. Yesterday when Bob was trying to work one of the mobiles, K5GE I believe it was, he was told by that illustrious Net Control Station, "***N4CD QSY. I don't want any PERVERTS on my Net! And have a very nice day.***" I couldn't believe what my ears were hearing. I think Bob deserves better than this. N4CD just happens to be one of the most prolific, if not the most prolific county hunter out there. Bob probably runs as many counties, if not more counties, than any other mobile we have; he has helped so many of us. For him to be insulted like this, is beyond belief.

Personally, I am sick and disgusted by this degenerate behavior from KZ2P/K2JG. I wish somebody, someday, would find the time and money to sue this guy for slander and defamation of character. How can a man like this be appointed to the BOD (once again), so he can run unopposed for MARAC office? Is this really the kind of person that Madam President, WB9NUL, finds worthy to hold MARAC office?? Should not MARAC officers be held to a slightly higher standard??? This isn't the first time the BOD has turned a blind eye to this kind of outrageous behavior

And now, according to the meeting's log, the BOD wants to create a new MARAC Recruitment Officer; presumably with an appropriate budget to come out of our membership dues, I imagine. Why bother trying to recruit any new county hunters, when they will be run off and/or subjected to insults like N4CD, N9STL, and so many others, have been forced to endure? The money might be better spent, by paying K2JG and his like to stay away from 14.336 mhz! I wonder, how long does it take for some people to finally see the light??

It's been almost 2 years since I have posted anything critical of MARAC and the BOD. But I have been silent for too long! Everybody has heard the story about the "last straw that broke the camel's back." Well, this proverbial straw is just too heavy to carry. Unless something outrageous is

posted, I shall try to remain silent for another two years. I apologize to all those readers who might be offended by reading the truth about some of MARAC's "*finest*" officers. “

**NX5Z:** “What I'm gonna do for Jim, he can't stop! I'm gonna pray for Jim ! ! ! . 73 es God Bless, Sam, NX5Z, USACA #857

## A Speech

If every school principal gave this speech at the beginning of the next school year, America would be a better place.

To the students and faculty of our high school:

I am your new principal, and honored to be so. There is no greater calling than to teach young people.

I would like to apprise you of some important changes coming to our school. I am making these changes because I am convinced that most of the ideas that have dominated public education in America have worked against you, against your teachers and against our country.

First, this school will no longer honor race or ethnicity. I could not care less if your racial makeup is black, brown, red, yellow or white. I could not care less if your origins are African, Latin American, Asian or European, or if your ancestors arrived here on the Mayflower or on slave ships.

The only identity I care about, the only one this school will recognize, is your individual identity -- your character, your scholarship, your humanity. And the only national identity this school will care about is American. This is an American public school, and American public schools were created to make better Americans.

If you wish to affirm an ethnic, racial or religious identity through school, you will have to go elsewhere. We will end all ethnicity-, race- and non-American nationality-based celebrations. They undermine the motto of

America, one of its three central values -- e pluribus unum, "from many, one." And this school will be guided by America's values.

This includes all after-school clubs. I will not authorize clubs that divide students based on any identities. This includes race, language, religion, sexual orientation or whatever else may become in vogue in a society divided by political correctness.

Your clubs will be based on interests and passions, not blood, ethnic, racial or other physically defined ties. Those clubs just cultivate narcissism - - an unhealthy preoccupation with the self -- while the purpose of education is to get you to think beyond yourself. So we will have clubs that transport you to the wonders and glories of art, music, astronomy, languages you do not already speak, carpentry and more. If the only extracurricular activities you can imagine being interesting in are those based on ethnic, racial or sexual identity, that means that little outside of yourself really interests you.

Second, I am uninterested in whether English is your native language. My only interest in terms of language is that you leave this school speaking and writing English as fluently as possible. The English language has united America's citizens for over 200 years, and it will unite us at this school. It is one of the indispensable reasons this country of immigrants has always come to be one country. And if you leave this school without excellent English language skills, I would be remiss in my duty to ensure that you will be prepared to successfully compete in the American job market. We will learn other languages here -- it is deplorable that most Americans only speak English -- but if you want classes taught in your native language rather than in English, this is not your school.

Third, because I regard learning as a sacred endeavor, everything in this school will reflect learning's elevated status. This means, among other things, that you and your teachers will dress accordingly. Many people in our society dress more formally for Hollywood events than for church or school. These people have their priorities backward. Therefore, there will be a formal dress code at this school.

Fourth, no obscene language will be tolerated anywhere on this school's property -- whether in class, in the hallways or at athletic events. If you can't speak without using the f-word, you can't speak. By obscene language I mean the words banned by the Federal Communications Commission, plus epithets such as "Nigger," even when used by one black student to address another black, or "bitch," even when addressed by a girl to a girlfriend. It is

my intent that by the time you leave this school, you will be among the few your age to instinctively distinguish between the elevated and the degraded, the holy and the obscene.

Fifth, we will end all self-esteem programs. In this school, self-esteem will be attained in only one way -- the way people attained it until decided otherwise a generation ago -- by earning it. One immediate consequence is that there will be one valedictorian, not eight.

Sixth, and last, I am reorienting the school toward academics and away from politics and propaganda. No more time will be devoted to scaring you about smoking and caffeine, or terrifying you about sexual harassment or global warming. No more semesters will be devoted to condom wearing and teaching you to regard sexual relations as only or primarily a health issue. There will be no more attempts to convince you that you are a victim because you are not white, or not male, or not heterosexual or not Christian. We will have failed if any one of you graduates this school and does not consider him or herself inordinately lucky -- to be alive and to be an American.

Now, please stand and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. As many of you do not know the words, your teachers will hand them out to you.”

Source: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0710/prager071310.php3>

## Net Control Award Deleted

At the annual convention, there was an agenda item to delete the Karl Adkins Net Control Hours Award. This is given for a minimum of 250 hours of Net Control Time by the rules (you must keep a list of active mobiles, call them in order, keep a record of the mobiles you ran, etc as

detailed in Net Control Hours section). That section is still required for those using NC hours for the Master Gold Award.

It was noted that the President, WB9NUL, indicated that only two Karl Adkins net Control Awards had been given out in the past 18 years. Then she looked lovingly at James, KZ2P, pointed a finger at him, and pointed a finger at herself. Well, that too was in error.

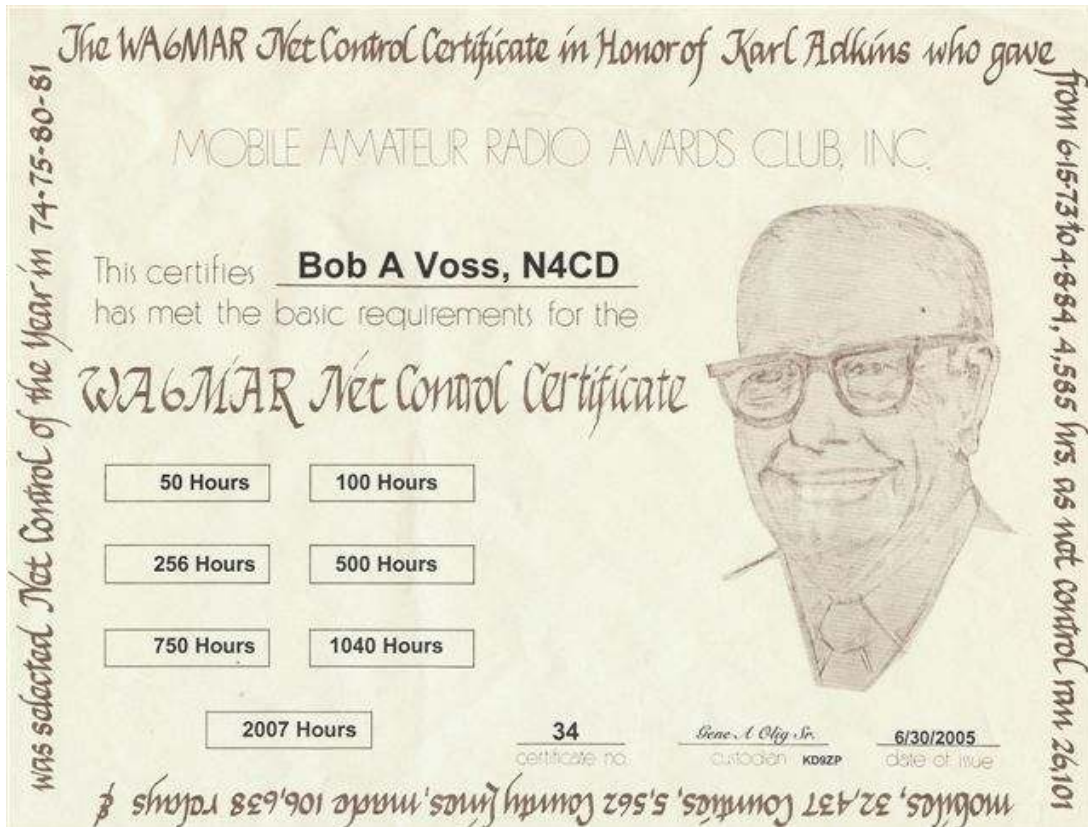
The comedy of errors, things overlooked, and things done so hurriedly so there could be no discussion of the proposed Master Diamond award was truly staggering to the casual observer, and likely even more amazing to those on line where only 20% of what was going on actually was noted on line in the 'meeting chat room'.

Here is the official record of those who applied for the basic Karl Adkins award or endorsements from the Awards Chairman:

**CALL    AWARD DATE**

WB9NUL 10/21/2005  
N4CD     6/30/2005  
N4CD     9/9/1994  
VE2MS    3/26/1992

You'll note that 'the station and his invisible mini-mee club station K2JG in SC, previously FL, then prior to that NJ, never applied under any of his callsigns. The rules require you take all mobiles that call in to run. Oops.



So now that that is straightened out, the award will no longer be issued. Maybe the BOD would have been better served by trying to get others to apply for it before it was killed? Nah, that thought never seemed to have crossed their minds despite it being an awards club first and foremost. Let's see. You could have required it for any NC hours claimed for MG! That would have gotten another dozen issued, likely!

Even better, it was a 'free award'. No charge to get it. Y'all missed out on a freebie!

Here's the web log of the meeting.

As of the convention, the motion to delete passed.

[09:40] <KE3VV-Dave> P ,pve that the Board accedpt the recommendation of the Awards Committee to eliminate the Net CONTROL Award  
 [09:41] <KE3VV-Dave> I move  
 [09:41] <AF3X-Mobile> Dave moves, Jim seconds  
 [09:41] <KE3VV-Dave> only been 2 individuals that have applied for the "Net Control



Award" in the past 18

[09:41] <AF3X-Mobile> any discussion?

[09:41] <KE3VV-Dave> years

[09:41] <AF3X-Mobile> AC0B says same thing as Dave

[09:41] <AA8R-Randy> this is not the NC of the Year award...

[09:41] <KE3VV-Dave> and MARAC does not spondor a net

[09:42] <KE3VV-Dave> Net Control of the Year is different and will remain an award

[09:42] <AF3X-Mobile> so noted, any more discussion

[09:42] <KZ2P-Jim> **okie dokie**

[09:42] <AF3X-Mobile> voting:

[09:42] <AA8R-Randy> yes

[09:42] <AD8W-Chuck> yes

[09:42] <KE3VV-Dave> yes

[09:42] <AB2LS-Carol> aye

[09:42] <N0ZA-Ross> aye

[09:42] <AF3X-Mobile> KZ2P yes, AC0B yes

[09:43] <AF3X-Mobile> Terry?

[09:43] <AF3X-Mobile> approved

[09:43] <WQ7A-Terry> yes

[09:43] <AF3X-Mobile> ok

## Net Control Hours

The MARAC rules define what you must do to claim net control hours for the Master Gold Award second part requirements of 1500 hours of service to the county hunting community. This can be running a net (note MARAC does not sponsor or run any net), running counties – one point per county per day- or serving as an officer, director, newsletter writer, or convention holder which will give you so points toward the 1500 needed.

Just like you must submit your log for the counties, showing who you worked in or from a county with the date for transmitted county credit, you must also, if you claim net control time follow the rules and then submit your log that was done according to the rules to claim net control time. The same is true of transmitted counties – you just can't submit a statement saying 'I ran 1500 counties, gimme my award'. (Not only that but counties run on CB or non-amateur frequencies don't count!).

Let's quickly review what the MARAC rules (p11) require:

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, including maintaining control of a net frequency, keeping a list of active mobiles, announcing mobile call signs and counties, and providing relays.

**NCS** and **ANCS** time may not be claimed when a net is not operating ("open session"). A log must be maintained by the **NCS** or **ANCS** containing the dates and hours of operation as **NCS** or **ANCS**. The log may also include other information supporting the time of service claimed, such as call signs of mobiles run and the names of counties run. 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.”

Thus, if you do not keep a formal list and run a formal net where mobiles are run ‘off the list’, that would not count. Or if you keep saying “Net’s in open session’, that isn’t a formal net, either.

In addition, you must keep an accurate logs of the times you started the net or helping as net assistant, do relays for each mobile, and give the next mobiles to run, when you signed off as NC or ANC, and the daily hours claimed. That log, plus a summary of the total hours, must be submitted.

If you just sit on the frequency, looking for a number one mobile, or take the first mobile out of 3 or 4 calling in, never start a list, then repeat the process, not giving all a fair chance, that doesn’t count either.

You must also keep a list of the mobiles. If you are assistant and the NC suddenly disappears due to a storm, power failure, equipment failure, you aren’t supposed to then be on the air saying ‘Who has the list?’. It’s supposed to be YOU if you are ANC, and you should have it at all times! If you are only called on occasionally to look for relays, well, that doesn’t count either. You’re just helping out like half a dozen others on the frequency when NC is having trouble with hearing a mobile, or needs someone to ‘look back’ his way for relays he might not hear.

It seems one station who doesn't follow the rules has tried to get credit for NC hours, when there is no indication he ever followed the rules, kept the required lists on his own, was present all the time that he claimed for NC but popping in and out, but submitted a log saying 'Gimme – I have lots of time helping Jimm with the net'. Needless to say, it didn't pass muster with the A/C. The required data had NOT been submitted.

It's not that hard if you follow the rules.

## UK Going Digital

Millions of motorists will be forced to spend hundreds of pounds replacing or converting their car radios with new digital sets. The coalition Government is to press on with controversial plans to switch off FM and medium wave radio in favour of digital – leaving much of the nation with no option but to pay out for new equipment both at home and in the car. Despite serious concerns that the public neither wants nor is ready for the change, Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt is expected to announce he will stick with Labour's plans for a mass switchover in the next five years.

The move will cost consumers hundreds of pounds as they are forced to update and change their analogue radios at home and in their cars, before they become obsolete. As many as 100 million analogue radios will become largely redundant after 2015 and around 20 million car radios will be useless - leaving many without their favourite stations. Around 20 per cent of all radio listening happens in cars but only 1 per cent of all cars currently have the capability to receive digital stations. Motorists will either have to replace their car radios at a cost of some £300 or buy special 'conversion' kits that must be attached to the windscreen, often alongside Satnavs, which could also cost more than £100.

DAB sets for the home cost from £20 for a basic radio to £200 for waterproof, rechargeable versions that can be used outside.

The plans will hit motorists and pensioners hardest but most ordinary homes have two or three radios – and the expense of replacing them all will mount up for everyone. The outgoing Labour Government was not able to put the 2015 date into its Digital Economy Act, which was rushed through during its last days of power this April. But a Government source said it would try to stick with Labour’s planned timetable, meaning every household will have to own either a digital radio or have a TV in the next five years.

Senior Tory Lord Fowler, chair of the communications committee, warned the public ‘were not prepared’ for it.

He said: ‘These are people who do a lot of radio listening and if you’ve got four or five radios dotted around the house, then replacing them means the cost adds up. ‘The public have got to be taken with the process on this otherwise there is going to be something of an explosion of indignation.’

Digital platforms, including DAB radio, television and online accounted for 24 per cent of all radio listening in the first three months of this year, according to Rajar figures published in May.

This is an increase of almost four per cent on the same period in 2009 but still a small proportion of the nation. Currently, DAB coverage reaches about 90 per cent of the population but is extremely patchy in hilly areas such as Snowdonia in Wales and the Peak District in England. FM coverage, meanwhile, runs at more than 99 per cent.

Critics also say that the quality of the reception can vary wildly and is often poorer than FM.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has said incorporating digital radios into new models by 2015 would ‘be a challenge, but achievable’ but that still leaves tens of millions of older cars requiring conversion.

Earlier this year the communications committee published a report urging caution on radio switchover. It said: ‘We recommend that the Government, in collaboration with the manufacturers, should provide guidance to the public on in-car digital listening, including advice on conversion kits

available and likely to be available within the timeframe of digital switchover.’

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1292531/Motorists-face-300-digital-radio-ministers-press-ahead-FM-switch-off.html#ixzz0sz1MVXaB>

## The Annual MARAC Meeting Travesty

Let’s see.....where do we start?

Maybe we should start by noting, that for the annual **MOBILE** amateur Radio Awards Club...not a single officer or Director drove to the convention and put out counties along the way. Not a one. Those who did attend in person (3) either lived a few miles away (WB9NUL), or took commercial airline flights (AC0B, KZ2P, AB2LS who had to leave early due to family medical emergency and was not present in person for the meeting). It seems more than a bit strange that the officers and directors are not interested in attending the national convention/annual board meeting. Maybe it would be more useful to hold the national in places that folks wanted to travel to?

The agenda was published prior to the meeting in several places, so there was no surprise as to what was to be on the agenda. Madam President, WB9NUL, presiding, went through the first few items of accepting the minutes and treasurer’s report, then eliminating the Karl Adkins Net Control award because ‘only two’ had applied for it in the past 18 years. It was 3, but what is a 50% error? Not only that, she had no clue as to who had actually earned the award. Talk about ‘being prepared’ and ‘having the facts’. Clueless is the word that comes to mind. Then we proceed to premeditated thuggery on her part. The double dealing, deception, and downright stomping on the entire process of running a meeting then followed.

Madam President came to the listed item for the Board to consider the Mobile Diamond Award, which was approved by the Awards Committee

and forwarded to the Board for action. She said she would put that item ‘at the end’. That was a ruse. She had no intention of EVER considering that item on the agenda. Don’t be fooled. The ‘fix’ was in. Jimmy wanted it killed, and she fawns so much over Jimmy, well, she would do it for him. King Davve would assist in making sure it would never be discussed. If you thought she would discuss it at the end, I’ve got a bridge to sell you.

The other remaining items on the agenda were acted upon. Of course, there were a few items that didn’t make it on to the agenda. They would, for the most part, be ignored and overlooked, too, in the rush to conduct one of the worst MARAC meetings in history.

There were about 15 people in the audience. Maybe less. Many just slept in. Going to MARAC board meetings is as enjoyable as getting a root canal these days. Even worse when you watch the chicken-poop ‘leadership’ antics of the President and then watch the one-finger salute to the Directors and membership.

Jeffrey, AF3X, was sitting in the front row with his laptop and a poor quality internet connection that he seemed to have problems with. He was the link between WB9NUL and the rest of the Directors. Only 3 people were at the ‘head table’ and they consisted of WB9NUL, President, KZ2P, Secretary, and AC0B, Director. All other officers and directors were ‘on line’ with the exception of KC6AWX who had a family emergency. The response time between Jeffrey and the rest of the board was slow, as he had to type, then read responses. Only about 10% of what was said in the room was typed in to the web and the transcript so those on line had only a hint of what was really going on. You had minutes where Jeffrey just typed “Discussion” and those on line had no clue as to what was being said at the head table by WB9NUL as she conducted the sham of a meeting. “Legal”? Yes. In the membership’s interest? Not in my book.

About the only thing you can say was when it was time for a ‘motion’ on an item, Jeffrey would type in the item, and say please vote, then read the responses. Most of the discussion and comments at the head table was never typed in for the rest to see. Any comments from Directors on line was promptly ignored or overlooked due to the delay.

One other thing. KZ2P had his own laptop, that seemed to have a good connection, so he could tell if someone wanted to speak (and promptly be

ignored by him) , while AF3X doing the ‘translating’ seemed to be way behind. Others in the audience also could neither see both what was actually typed and what was going on unless they had a PC, and one did (N8KIE). Those on line were basically clueless to most of what transpired in the room. That was the worst possible situation. Again, having a root canal operation would have been less painful. No sound system. No visual display of what was being said on line. Maybe it was intentional? Keep the folks clueless?

When it came time to address the Mobile Diamond Award, Madam President simply announced that she was ‘removing’ the item from the agenda, and IMMEDIATELY called for a motion to adjourn immediately within milliseconds. It was made within milliseconds and seconded, and Jeffrey quickly typed in ”vote yes/no”.

There was no call for new business that anyone could respond to. Requests from Directors to speak were ignored. Only when the vote to adjourn FAILED by 5 no, 4 years, since there actually was other business to do, did one of the Directors get a word in edgewise to say there were service awards to be issued. Within 60 seconds that was hurried passed to give AA8R a service award.

WB9NUL quickly called for adjournment before any director could bring up Mobile Diamond Award. Quickly! Fast! End the meeting! Panic in her eyes! (She knew she was pulling a ‘fast one’ as orchestrated by KZ2P – It didn’t matter to her that most of the Directors wanted to address the issue. Anything to please Jimmy. Anything to avoid controversy. The heck with ‘rules’ and good procedure. Jimmy told her to end it. She would do anything for Jimmy. I’m surprised she didn’t walk in front of him, putting down rose petals so his feet didn’t touch the carpet.

KZ2P knew that the motion to pass the Mobile Diamond Award would pass. Heads had been counted. It would have passed 5 to 4. The Directors had already stated their opinions on the K3IMC forum and to the awards chairman. The only way KZ2P had left was to ‘kill’ it, remove it, then quickly adjourn before it could be brought up by anyone else. The bamboozled President went along with it. KE3VV was also in on ‘the fix’.

She succeeded in ending it without allowing any Director to speak or be heard. By the time Jeffrey could say others want to speak, the meeting was over. Too late. The dastardly deed had been done. The county hunters

had been shafted. WB9NUL gave a one finger salute to half the Directors and all the county hunters to please Jimmy and Davve.

That was the travesty of a Board of Directors meeting that happened in Weslaco. It leaves such a rotten taste in your mouth that some folks will probably never go down there again. N8KIE and Jaci for sure. N4CD likely too. I don't know if N4AAT will head there either. Why?

The controversy was one of two things that caused the awards chairman to resign. If you didn't have your awards request into him before you are reading this, we'll, send it to the new awards chairman.

Here's the last part of the meeting on line version by AF3X.

[09:44] <AD8W-Chuck> **I move that the board accept and implement the Mobile Diamond Award as presented by the Awards Committee.**

[09:45] <N0ZA-Ross> second

[09:45] <AF3X-Mobile> Joyce is removing the item from the agenda

[09:45] <AF3X-Mobile> we will be getting a new Awards manager

[09:45] <AA8R-Randy> why

[09:45] <AA8R-Randy> we currently have an AM...why wait

[09:45] <AF3X-Mobile> and she will be asking  $\gamma$  all  $\gamma$  of the membership on their input with the award

[09:46] <AA8R-Randy> are we going to be doing for all future awards?

[09:46] <WQ7A-Terry> I find that unnecessary.

[09:46] <KE3VV-Dave> There have been a lot of requests for more input from the membership

[09:46] <WQ7A-Terry> We have an award proposed by the AC.

[09:46] <AD8W-Chuck> **This is BULLSHIT!!!!!!**

[09:46] \* anon has joined #maracboard

[09:47] <AF3X-Mobile> Joyce: As predident she has the authority to, and is, removing this item from the agenda for this meeting

[09:47] <AA8R-Randy> You may have to find another AM very quickly if your going to follow through with this...

[09:47] <KE3VV-Dave> In that case, I move we adjourn

[09:47] <AD8W-Chuck> No reason not to act on this now

[09:47] <AF3X-Mobile> second?

[09:47] <AF3X-Mobile> KZ2P seconds

[09:47] <AF3X-Mobile> voting:

[09:47] <AA8R-Randy> no

[09:47] <KE3VV-Dave> yes

[09:47] <WQ7A-Terry> no

[09:47] <AD8W-Chuck> no

[09:48] <AF3X-Mobile> AC0B, yes KZ2P yes



[09:48] <N0ZA-Ross> no  
**[09:48]** <AF3X-Mobile> no adjourn  
[09:48] <AB2LS-Carol> aye  
[09:48] <AD8W-Chuck> **I have other new business**  
[09:48] <AF3X-Mobile> Joyce gets to vote  
[09:48] <AF3X-Mobile> waiting for her vote, told her Chuck  
[09:48] <KE3VV-Dave> I think we should ask Chuck what his new business is  
[09:48] <AF3X-Mobile> Joyce says she will take the new business  
[09:49] <AF3X-Mobile> Go ahead Chuck  
[09:49] <AA8R-Randy> there are five no's and 4 yes...not a majority  
[09:49] <AD8W-Chuck> I move that we present Randy AA8R the MARAC Outstanding Service Award for the GREAT job he has done as our Awards Manager.  
[09:49] <KE3VV-Dave> second  
[09:49] <AF3X-Mobile> discussion?  
[09:49] <AF3X-Mobile> AC0B says very deserving  
[09:49] <AB2LS-Carol> And so say I  
[09:50] <AF3X-Mobile> if none, voting:  
[09:50] <KE3VV-Dave> Randy has done an outstanding job cleaning up the awards records and finances  
[09:50] <AF3X-Mobile> AC0B yes, KZ2P Yes  
[09:50] <KE3VV-Dave> yes  
[09:50] <AD8W-Chuck> yes  
[09:50] <N0ZA-Ross> aye  
[09:50] <AB2LS-Carol> aye  
[09:50] <WQ7A-Terry> aye!  
[09:51] <AF3X-Mobile> approved, any other new business  
[09:51] <AF3X-Mobile> on the tie break vote Joyce deferred adjournment pending any other new business  
**[09:51]** <KE3VV-Dave> I move that we adjourn and open the floor to the members  
[09:51] <AF3X-Mobile> KZ2P second  
[09:51] <KE3VV-Dave> in that case we are adjourned  
[09:51] <AF3X-Mobile> voting:  
[09:51] <AF3X-Mobile> so adjourned  
[09:51] <KE3VV-Dave> yes  
[09:52] <AF3X-Mobile> "in that case"  
[09:52] \* Looking up anon user info...  
[09:52] <AF3X-Mobile> NX0X speaking about the MARAC 2011 Duluth convention  
[09:52] <AF3X-Mobile> 43rd annua  
[09:52] <AF3X-Mobile> l  
[09:52] <AB2LS-Carol> I think there should be a note of thanks for the services of NX4W  
[09:52] <AF3X-Mobile> he says its much cooler than south texas in july  
[09:53] <KE3VV-Dave> **too late Carol**, but I think we should give a service aawrd at the next meeting

- - -  
You'll note that at 9:47 AF3X is doing more than reporting what is said. It is 'editorializing'. The President does not have the power to ignore a call for new business, or a motion on the floor that was seconded. Was he, too, in cahoots with KZ2P? What else is new? Is he's part of the 'W5UGD chat room bunch of thugs'? A 'chirp along? Or just caught 'in the middle'? Just look at his record.

Even IF the item had been 'removed' from the agenda, the President is bound to accept a request for new business. She didn't. James, Davve, and She were in such a hurry to 'end' the meeting as fast as possible, that any requests for new business were ignored...until the motion to adjourn failed the first time, then another 30 seconds was allowed to pass the service award before another quick call for adjournment. This was all planned ahead of time. Devious. Deceptive. Intentional.

It must be great to be a MARAC Director trying to do your job, knowing you just got shafted by the President. Not allowed to speak. Not allowed to represent your members. Worse, having the hard work of the entire awards committee torpedoed by two vindictive 'members of the Board'.

You will note that AF3X did not relay any 'request for any new business' request to all those on line! And 20 seconds later, another call to adjourn was made. WB9NUL and KZ2P tripped over each other trying to shut down the meeting without considering The Mobile Diamond Award. They did not want to hear from those directors on line. Those present assumed that there was no call from those on line. Yes, it was bullcrap. Worse. It was premeditated screwing of the other Officers and Directors of MARAC.

Worse, AF3X spoke softly to the head table and those in the room heard less than 20% of what was going on. While folks at the head table conversed, and likely private messages went flying around between KZ2P and KE3VV, the on-line audience only saw "Discussion" as matters were discussed by KZ2P and WB9NUL, and everyone else was 'in the dark' on other matters. Only those with laptops had a clue what was being said on line (and what was NOT being relayed), and half of what the head table said was inaudible 3 rows back and not put on line.

Talk about the worst possible meeting situation, and ‘railroad’ job by KZ2P and King Dave, KE3VV, to conduct probably the worst MARAC meeting in history. Until the recent past, Directors actually all had to be in the same room at the same time, and everyone could hear everything. NO skullduggery could take place. Remotely located Directors with a President in collusion with two others eliminated the possibility of an honest open meeting.

Joyce and Jim were in such a hurry to adjourn that were unfinished items of business that were simply ignored or overlooked. They couldn’t allow any discussion or input from the other Directors. Railroading job the entire way. Worst meeting that I’ve ever seen anywhere at any time.

Nest year I might join the hundreds of MARAC members who were out on vacations elsewhere and not bother to see another MARAC “annual” circus called a ‘board of directors’ meeting like that again. K5GE, AB4YZ, and a raft of other active mobiles had the right idea by avoiding this one.

If WB9NUL thought her actions would have no fallout – she’s horribly wrong. Likely permanent irreversible damage was done. She was grinning like the Cheshire Cat, ear to ear, and what she had accomplished.

## Fallout

It seems that KE3VV KZ2P and the ‘Club of One’ (chat room thugs – KA1JPR, and others) will stoop to nothing to get their way and inflict major collateral damage upon the rest of the county hunters. (like no CHOTY, too)

**First, the Awards Chairman after intimidation, arm twisting, back breaking, quit.** James wanted him to ‘withdraw’ the proposed award from the Annual Meeting agenda. He refused. This was to be the ONLY award created in 2010. Randy had spent months, and the awards committee had

spent months working on it. It was a year overdue. He wasn't going to be intimidated by a bunch of thugs out to 'punish N4 Seedy and N9STL'. Likely the 'chirp alongs' in the W5UGD chat room (W5UGD, AF3X, KC6AWX, KA9JAC, KA1JPR, etc) were also 'complaining' after KZ2P pulled their strings, to to anyone who would listen, trying to get Randy to withdraw the award by creating a 'controversy'.

That is the SECOND awards chairman who has resigned over issues with KZ2P/KE3VV on awards. KD9ZP resigned over the intimidation by KZ2P and his henchmen. Remember? KC6AWX 'DEMANDED' a copy of N9STL's application for Master Platinum from the awards chairman in a highly unusual manner. It was then distributed by KC6AWX and KZ2P to willing county hunters (arms and legs twisted) to 'verify contacts' and try and find a single discrepancy or 'error' in all 3077, like a wrong signal report so the application could be disqualified. That was the FIRST and only time in history such a witch hunt had been conducted. KD9ZP got fed up with the witch hunt and resigned shortly thereafter. He was one of the best.

Now, AA8R, Randy, after arm twisting, being read the bylaws and bogus made up out of thin air 'interpretations' by King Dave, KE3VV, back breaking, leg breaking, being told WHAT to do, etc, while an on going email campaign of over 1000 emails flying between directors calling for KZ2P wanted changes (killing MD or delaying it forever), got fed up. Member of the Chat Room crowd and chief trouble maker KZ2P made him reach the point that he resigned over the cooked up Mobile Diamond controversy.

That is the second Awards Chairman to quit in disgust and the low level thuggery that KZ2P and the chat room crowd will stoop to 'have their way'. (and that usually involves mythical 'punishing N4CD or N9STL – he is a bit mentally unstable on that – pathetically so – a psycho - Sam NX5Z is praying for him).

While AA8R had planned to stay on until a new awards chairman was appointed, after the horrible treatment where his work for months on this award was simply 'taken off the agenda' to please KZ2P and KE3VV, while every other director wanted to act on it...well, that sent him over the edge. He did agree to finish out the month of July.

Great going KZ2P – you screwed the entire membership in your quest to ‘punish N4CD and N9STL at all costs’. The costs were very high. Too bad that WB9NUL got suckered in so easily to his scheme. Percy was on the air gloating about the ‘great victory’ that Jim had in Weslaco. We’ll let the membership decide if they ‘won’ or ‘lost’ big time there.

Some reader comments:

**W3DYA:** I know better than to do this, but after hearing about the MD award controversy at Weslaco and reading the bitching on this forum, I thought I'd offer an opinion although I have no skin, dog, or horse in the race.

If the membership is allowed to vote, I will support the awards committee's rules as submitted, which I assume includes the July 2008 start date.

Anyone who does otherwise obviously has a personal reason, which is OK, too! **But if I were on the awards committee and this happened, I'd assume the committee was unnecessary and quit.**

My, ain't this a fun group!

- - -

**De N4CD:** KE3VV said membership voting will be ignored. MARAC does not act according to membership voting on award proposals. See the entire transcript.

Not only that, but no need to have an awards committee. Davve will make all the decisions and he has 99% of the vote himself, and if you don't let him have his way, he'll find a way to lawyer a way to kill whatever it is you are working on if **he doesn't like it, or like the person who submitted it.** Then convince the ‘chirp alongs’ and it is history.

- - -

**W0MU:** Odd that folks can make reasonable suggestions in the forum but we couldn't possibly even discuss the award at the annual meeting.

- - - -

**K7REL:** I read the entire Log of the MARAC meeting and was appalled at the way our vice-president, AD8W, Chuck, was "shouted down" and told by MARAC legal counsel that he was "out of order", whenever he moved to accept/implement the MD Award as presented by the Awards Committee.

- - -

**Anon:** I think all the original MARAC founders not living are rolling over in their graves.

- - - -

**W5UGD:** I did support the award 100%. I am for anything that increases the number of counties run, because just like you and everyone else, I need a few to finish up =)

- - - -

**N8KIE:** "It is as simple as N4CD that is the real issue."

- - - -

**W5UGD:** "I would like to know one thing...

Why would this Diamond award even be in question, errrm, why would someone want to kill it?

I don't want to read all the banter, but I'm guessing, if the award were put into place, someone would currently, or soon would qualify for it, and that person is hated by a ton (or a group) of people... I'm guessing N4CD or some such? So to by "killing" the award, it kills this person's chances at being Diamond SuchAndSuch #1, until a loophole is found to lock them out? Is that the concensus?"

-- --

**KE3VV:** “It is soooooo simple..... Jimm (KZtoPee) is an expert on mind control and has been secretly running MARAC - not every day - but on Tuesdays and Thursdays (and other days when he is not running a net on 14.336), he is secretly running MARAC and several other organizations that need not be mentioned here.

..... Other than a little bitching here and a little moaning there, they pretty have been made impotent by his all-pervasive evil genius.

Selah!”

-----

**AD8W:** “KZ2P and friends can't stand the fact that N4CD might earn an award or heaven forbid, be number one to get the thing. I was at the CA convention when K5GE finished Platinum before N4CD. Those guys were so happy you would have thought they won the lottery!

You have missed one other thing John. KE3VV will never be happy until he runs every committee and holds every office.

---Chuck AD8W former marac VP and glad to be done with it. (Saved me the trouble of resigning.)”

- -

**N8KIE:** “Planned trip deleted, going to listen to the stereo instead.”

Anyone having MRC's for me to sign go ahead and mail them. No more counties.”

De N4CD – N8KIE announced he will never go mobile again with an HF radio. He will get his few remaining needs working N8RLJ on 2M FM, and get her last five for Bingo, but you won't hear him on HF ever again. You can say ‘thank you’ to, as KE3VV notes, “Jimm (KZtoPee)” for that.

- - -  
**N4AAT:** “To all of you who think the diamond award is going to be easy to get, you’re going to be ---- a little bit out of touch on how hard it's going to be. I put on over 300 miles, and ran 11 counties Wednesday, and I could not get any credit for any of the counties I ran. I only got 5 out of 11 with MP holders, and couldn't get 3 contacts on either 20 or 40 meters, SSB, to complete the required contacts for the award. Wasted effort as far as I'm concerned.

**I was planning on a long trip, but I think I'll hold off until some of the board of directors get their act together.”**

- - -  
**KM9X :** “It should have been passed one way or another. I agree with N4CD that this award is way over due.

It should have went with whatever the wording was from the committee.. that why we have an awards committee! The moaning would have been over (maybe) but someone is going to bitch whatever the decision is... MAKE A DECISION AND STICK WITH IT.”

- - -  
**N4AAT:** “WOW, what a kick in the butt, again. To bad it has to come down to the majority of one.”

- - -  
**WQ7A:** “I would like to question the authority of the President to remove a motion and second from a vote. Since the person making the motion did not withdraw it. Is this proper? Even if it is, I think it is a misuse of power.”

- - -  
**W0MU:** “I would also like to know how the President can simply remove a noticed agenda item. So if a President does not like something they can simply table an item till their term is out. This is very wrong!”



- - -  
**AJ5C:** “I know in our local radio club, when there is a motion and second on the floor, it needs to be acted upon, and cannot be arbitrarily removed by the president.”

- - -  
**NU4C:** Why are we even having a discussion on Star Date. As a relative newcomer and close to my first star I recognize MD as an Award not a competition. My goodness if it was a competition and being #1 was the goal who would still be hunting counties? I'll probably not live long enough to ever qualify for MD but that doesn't mean I won't try. Some have already invested their energy, time and money in chasing MD. The awards committee set a start date of July '08. Its a no-brainer pass it without amendment.”

- - -  
As to the excuse of wanting membership input offered by King Dave, KE3VV

[09:45] <AF3X-Mobile> and she will be asking 7 all7 of the membership on their input with the award

[09:46] <AA8R-Randy> are we going to be doing for all future awards?

[09:46] <WQ7A-Terry> I find that unnecessary.

[09:46] <KE3VV-Dave> There have been a lot of requests for more input from the membership

[09:46] <WQ7A-Terry> We have an award proposed by the AC.

[09:46] <AD8W-Chuck> This is BULLSHIT!!!!!!

There has never been a request for ‘membership input’ on other awards. The BOD had already received loads of input on this. Not only that, but any ‘vote’ by the membership will likely be promptly ignored – MARAC only allows Directors to vote on matters, especially if the vote doesn’t agree with KE3VV and KZ2P.

Joyce, WB9NUL and KZ2P were in such a hurry that other business could not be transacted.

For example, AB2LS tried to get a service award for NX4W

[09:52] <AB2LS-Carol> I think there should be a note of thanks for the services of NX4W

[09:52] <AF3X-Mobile> he says its much cooler than south texas in july

[09:53] <KE3VV-Dave> **too late Carol**, but I think we should give a service aawrd at the next meeting

Too Late – she couldn't get a word in edgewise, and WB9NUL didn't want to hear any new business. Period. She and James were tripping over each other trying to shut down things. The heck with any sense of 'rules of order'. It was mob rule. Thuggery. Cuba's Castro and Venezuela's Chavez would be proud of them and the way they stomped out any other action.

Here is what Dave, KE3VV said about membership input after the meeting was adjourned and 'opened up ' for membership input/questions:

[09:54] <W0GXQ-Jerry> When will the Roadrunner have the membership vote on the the Diamond Award?

[09:54] <ka1jpr-percy> **a great meeting folks**

[09:54] <KE3VV-Dave> If there are any members that can't get on the internet or arrange to have a friend print it out, we will arrange to print out a copy and send to them

[09:54] <AF3X-Mobile> July 6-9 are teh correct dates

[09:54] \* AD8W-Chuck has quit IRC (Ping timeout\*)

[09:55] <KE3VV-Dave> **The membership will not VOTE on the award**

[09:55] <KE3VV-Dave> that would violate the bylaws

So they'll go through some motions of 'wanting membership input' then promptly ignore it and do whatever they want. Doesn't that make you really feel wanted and that you have an organization that represents your best interests? And stimulates mobile activity, not kill it or run it off? So if 90% of the membership want a given date, they will likely ignore it if it doesn't make Dave or Jim happy? Is that what Dave meant?

Joyce WB9NUL was told to say

“<AF3X-Mobile> and she will be asking 7 all7 of the membership on their input with the award

Or at least that is what AF3X told all those on line.

Then Davve said: “The membership will not vote on this” –

So why waste money, time, and effort polling them? You would think that Joyce’s and Davve’s heads would have exploded by now with logic like this, but apparently “DC Lawyahs”, clueless leaders, and politicians are exempt from actually having to follow the logic of what they say, and saying things out of both sides of their mouth at the same time.

So why bother to waste ink in the Road Runner if the results will be promptly ignored by the BOD? This is your MARAC at work. Doing a great job, aren’t they?

[09:55] <W0GXQ-Jerry> OK - I mean give input

[09:55] <KE3VV-Dave> but the membership is being asked for input

[09:56] <KE3VV-Dave> yes

[09:56] <AF3X-Mobile> next issue will have the info about the diamond

[09:56] <W0GXQ-Jerry> THANKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[09:56] \* W0GXQ-Jerry has quit IRC (Leaving: ☘ )

[09:56] <KE3VV-Dave> The members should get all the information that was presented to the Board

[09:57] <KE3VV-Dave> especially the info on how the Master Platinum Award was handled

[10:05] <KE3VV-Dave> **I consider any meeting where Jimm is allowed in through the front door to be a success**

Notice how Percy was crowing about ‘how great a meeting it was’. No new business was allowed to be heard. A meeting is a success if ‘Jimm’ is allowed in? IF that is the measure of success by the Director, no wonder no new business was allowed to be conducted. Success is just letting Jimm in.

**Wow! MARAC: twiddle thumbs ....twiddle thumbs..ignore members....give members the one finger salute.**

Now this gets interesting. Let's see – the members will get all the information that was presented to the board. All 1000 emails? Or did he mean that all the information that was talked about at the meeting will be sent to the membership? In that case, it is ZERO since WB9NUL wouldn't allow any information or discussion. The membership already saw the award proposal since it was PRINTED in the ROAD Runner on July 1, 2010.

So what 'more' information is going to get distributed, when the proposed award was in the Road Runner, as well as in the County Hunter News? And it was announced at Dayton by Randy, AA8R?

Now the board will go through the 'motions' of soliciting member input, then likely do nothing with it. In fact, Davve said it counts for nothing.

So, at the next board meeting will we see: Joyce will vote whatever way Jimmy tells her to, and so will two other of the Directors who likely have to call to Club HQ in SC for voting instructions. Davve has already told you that your input might simply be ignored as the membership doesn't get to 'vote' on any business.

I guess Dave's idea of success is : **twiddle thumbs ....twiddle thumbs for a few more months? Delay and Delay and Delay? Tell folks you are waiting for 'input' , then throw that input in the trash can? And delay some more?**

**Well, Davve found out the A/C can 'fire' anyone on the committee as one of AA8R's last acts was to fire KE3VV, but now with KC6AWX taking over, KE3VV will probably appoint himself back to the awards committee and continue to screw things up. Wanna bet? Or put KA1JPR, W5UGD, AF3X or KZ2P on it – so he can pull their strings easily.**

Sad. The membership deserves better. A lot better. While both Davve and KZ2P make significant 'good contributions' over the year, their actions on both the annual meeting, killing any discussion/action on Mobile Diamond, and their CHOTY fiasco, are like a cancer killing MARAC within. Both seem determined to get their own way at the expense of the membership on some issues. It doesn't take much toxic cancer to kill an organization. But, wait, there's even more to the MARAC Follies!

# Boy Scout Signaling Merit Badge

Wow...a blast from the past. As part of the centennial year celebration, the Boy Scouts have brought back 4 merit badges that were available in the past for the duration of 2010. Scouts can now work on the Signaling Merit Badge that was discontinued in 2010. Did you see the blurb in the latest QST?

Could you pass this? (from the Boy Scout web site)

This is official information for the Historic Merit Badge program. Signaling is one of four Historic Merit Badges to be reintroduced during 2010 for the BSA Centennial celebration.

Some additional restrictions include:

- Scouts must start and complete all merit badge work after April 1, 2010 and before Dec. 31, 2010.
- The merit badge will count towards rank advancement.
- Additional information is available online [HERE](#), no merit badge pamphlets will be printed.

## Requirements for the Signaling merit badge:

1. Make an electric buzzer outfit, wireless, blinker, or other signaling device.
2. Send and receive in the International Morse Code, by buzzer or other sound device, a complete message of not less than 35 words, at a rate of not less than 35 letters per minute.
3. Demonstrate an ability to send and receive a message in the International Morse Code by wigwag and by blinker or other light signaling device at the rate of not less than 20 letters per minute.

4. Send and receive by Semaphore Code at the rate of not less than 30 letters per minute.
5. Know the proper application of the International Morse and Semaphore Codes; when, where, and how they can be used to best advantage.
6. Discuss briefly various other codes and methods of signaling which are in common use.

For those radio clubs or groups who are associated with local Boy Scouts Troops, this is an excellent opportunity to help the individual scouts earn a nifty blast from the past merit badge, and maybe sow the seeds for ham radio.

Source: [http://www.boyscouttrail.com/content/content/merit\\_badge\\_signaling-2046.asp](http://www.boyscouttrail.com/content/content/merit_badge_signaling-2046.asp)

## Activity on 17M and Up

Wow! This has been a good month to snag 17M counties. In addition, at times contacts have been made up through ten meters!

Spotted on 17M this month include NN9K, W9MSE, AI5P, N4CD, WA4PGM, W4SIG, KB6TAL, KL1V, K5GE (SSB), K8MM, AB7RW, N0KV, N0KV/N0DXE (SSB), NF0N, NM2L, N4JT, KN4Y, KA4RRU, K0ARS, W3DYA, KO1U, K8ZZ, K8OOK/N8IPG (SSB), and W0GXQ. There were over 500 spots for the past 3 weeks in July!

On 15M this month, spotted stations include: W9MSE, W4SIG, W0BH, W0GXQ, KN4Y, W3DYA, KO1U, N4JT, AB7RW, K8MM, K8ZZ, N9JF.

Who did we find spotted on 12 meters? How about W9MSE, W4SIG, KN4Y, N4JT, W3DYA, KO1U, W0GXQ.

Did we have 10 meter propagation? KN4Y, W9MSE, N8KIE (SSB), N4JT, W0GXQ,

# Mobile Diamond Award

It's sad that such havoc was wrought upon MARAC and the county hunters by KZ2P and KE3VV. Let's discuss just a bit about it the 'cooked up' 'controversy'.

It seems that KZ2P in his quest to 'punish' N4CE and N9STL, which according to him are 'having too much fun' with the proposed Mobile Diamond Award, and with N4CD being out on major trips and 'daring' to run counties on 20M SSB, that the whole issue behind Mobile Diamond was lost.

It was about 2 years ago, after the first TWO Master Platinum Awards had been issued, that N4CD proposed through channels the Master Titanium Award. You can see it in a previous issue.

<http://chnewsonline.com/CountyHunterNews-July2008.pdf>

The award proposal was sent to my Director, N0ZA, with a request that it be forwarded to the Awards Committee for consideration. With email, that should have taken a bit over 48 hours.

The awards committee normally takes a proposal, then works on it with the entire committee providing input. There were changes proposed. For example, how you got credit for a 'transmitted county' turned out to be different – and probably better in the MARAC proposed award. Cleaner and easier to track. Different name, too. Not only did the entire committee work on it, they sought input from other senior mobile county hunters – W6TMD, W0GXQ, and N4AAT – to be sure it was a 'good' thoroughly thought out award that would be a challenge. Lots of input.

**The proposed start date that N4CD proposed in his Master Titanium proposal was the date at which the sixth MP award was issued.** There were really two reasons behind that:

1) That gave those who had finished even more incentive to get at least six finished so the award would be created. (and N4CD did 10,000 miles or more to get N4AAT and N9STL and WG6X done). N4AAT did at least 10,000 miles to help others and to get himself finished off, too. Larry, N2OCW drove 26,000 miles in one year to get his almost done(one to go). Joyce, N9STL made numerous trips to help others out, and get ones she needed. Jack, N7ID, criss-crossed the country, and N8KIE drove likely 50,000 miles getting the ones he needed and giving them out to all.

And it continues to this day as KM9X, AB4YZ and others are putting on the miles trying to get done.

2) It was unfair to those mobiles who had received MP initially. For example, for nearly the first year, N4CD and K5GE would have only had each other to work for one of the 500 required transmit counties if the start date were his date of award (July 2, 2008). That would have meant that KZ2P, KE3VV, and the 300 other active county hunters would have been collecting hundreds of counties for Diamond/Titanium, and N4CD and K5GE might get 25% of what they ran – maybe. Didn't seem fair to the mobiles. Remember, if you work a Plat holder from a county after you get Plat, you get Diamond credit – just like MP and MG. For the first 9 months, there were only 2 in the world. If the other one wasn't around – well, tough luck! Yet everyone else was getting credit for every county. Hmmm....

\* \* \* \* \*

**WELL>>>>>>>> That date came and went.** The award proposal was submitted before July 2008. You read about it in the July 2008 CHNews which comes out the end of June 2008. A year passed and nothing happened. **The sixth Master Platinum award was issued in May of 2009, almost a year after the proposal had been sent to the Awards Committee.**

\* \* \* \* \*



**MARAC: Twiddle thumbs.....twiddle thumbs.....**  
\* \* \* \* \*

**MARAC: Twiddle thumbs....twiddle thumbs even more.....**

Another entire year went by. It was now May of 2010. There was no award to work toward. Nada. Zip.

**MARAC: twiddle thumbs....twiddle thumbs**

**Could it be that when you have a Board that barely meets twice a year, that almost nothing gets done?**

**MARAC: Twiddle thumbs....twiddle thumbs...and that starts at the top with no leadership.**

Finally, AA8R announced at the Dayton Hamvention in late May 2010, where he spoke on MARAC awards, that the Mobile Diamond award would be created with a start date of July 3, 2008. Nearly two entire years had gone by.

Later, some folks learned that the Awards Committee appeared to be divided between two other 'start' dates. Now it gets interesting.

The Mobile Diamond proposal was published in the Road Runner on July 1, 2010 with the July 3, 2008 start date for all to read.

It looks like KZ2P started to really stir up a 'cooked up controversy'. Oh, N4CD would have a 'head start'. Joke of the century. More on that later. He obviously doesn't have much of a brain if he concluded that. Then again, he hasn't been spotted mobile in years, so he probably hasn't a clue to mobile operation and Master Platinum and beyond since he isn't seeking them. Remember. N4CD had proposed 9 months before the six one was awarded that that should be the start date. No 'head start' need. Let six finish, then let the mobiles work on Diamond/Titanium.

The awards committee got bogged down. Or should I say that KE3VV intentionally slowed them down. Forever, if he could with encouragement from KZ2P and the ‘chat room chirpies’.

**MARAC: Twiddle thumbs....twiddle thumbs.....**

According to the cooked up controversy:

\*\*\*\*\*One date proposed by the awards committee would be July 3, 2008, the date that K5GE received his Master Platinum Award. All contacts would count after that.

\*\*\*\*\*The other date was to be the day of the convention – July 11, 2010. It would be passed and become effective the same day. Some later said it should be August 1, 2010, so it could be published in the Road Runner for everyone to be made aware of it. Not a whole lot of difference.

IF...the awards committee had acted promptly, within a YEAR of receiving the proposal, the award could have been created in 2009 before the convention, and that would have been about the time of the sixth MP award...and the start date could have been set then. But, no – it seemed the awards committee, bogged down by KE3VV, sat around drinking beverages and not getting much done in 2009. Of course, with KE3VV applying the brakes at every possible moment, due to the ‘minor detail’ that N4CD had submitted the award, nothing would get done. No one seemed to be tracking the creation of new awards, and KZ2P and KE3VV had every inclination to delay, delay, delay or kill it.

**MARAC: twiddle thumbs ....twiddle thumbs...especially two Officers of MARAC.....**

Finally, AA8R spurred the a/c into action to get THE ONLY AWARD TO BE CREATED in 2010 out the door. Or so he thought, only to be kicked in the nuts by KZ2P, King Davve, and WB9NUL with the sham of a board meeting.

Well, NONE of those dates was implemented, of course, if you read above. None. Zip. Nada. Wild eyed Joyce, WB9NUL, ran scared, and KZ2P pulled her strings effectively shutting down EVEN the possibility of discussion of a start date. Nada. Zilch. Or an award. So sad for the county hunting community to see their 'board in action'. Or, should we say, not in action due to thug rule? Or maybe North Korea style meetings?

So where do we stand? Rumor has it that there will be a Board Meeting called in September, to 'consider member input' (which the Directors already got) and then according to Davve, will be promptly ignored if it isn't what he and other directors who strings are pulled by KZ2P want.

**Now, as to 'N4CD having a headstart' if the date is July 3, 2008.....ho ho ho ho ho ho. That's a real good laugh! Let's examine that fallacy.**

There are county hunters out there who have worked N4CD, K5GE, W6TMD, WG6X, and N8KIE in hundreds and hundreds of counties. Most of those mobiles who ran those counties DID NOT receive credit for the majority of counties they ran themselves. I can tell you that N4CD worked an MP holder from less than 1 in 4 counties the first year, and 1 in 3 the next year. However, with a July 3, 2008 start date, hundreds of county hunters would receive credit for 100% of the counties they worked the MP holders in. 3 to 4 times as many as most of those who went mobile to give out the contacts! Head start? That's a laugh. Maybe only in KayZedTooPee's and Percy's imagination, and we know how bad that is!

N4CD would 'lose' the least amount of most of the active county hunters. I never chased N8KIE or K5GE on SSB, and what you want to bet I get a relay on 14.336 most times? It would be to my advantage to have a future start date. I'd lose less than most county hunters by far, and being a very active mobile, with fewer active MP holders out there now, would have a good shot at being one of the first to complete the award regardless. MARAC totally discouraged half the MP holders. Gone. Vanished. Lost interest, or felt they were kicked in the butt.

Others would lose 2 to 3 times the county count if the date is not July 3, 2008. N4CD would benefit by a later start date. For example, if KC3X had worked MP holders in 600 counties, he would lose them all and start over. N4CD might lose 200. Likely N4PJ, N9QS, K9AAA, and on and on, who have been working mobiles left and right, would not be able to count

hundreds and hundreds. So, why would N4CD worry? After all, my original proposal would have put the start date in 2009. <g> But 2009 came and went.

**(KE3VV: twiddle thumbs ....twiddle thumbs...stall the process)**

The awards committee just yawned for another year. Likely it was KE3VV who just couldn't seem to 'get around to it' intentionally with support from one or two other 'chat room' chirpies. . Now it is 2010, and still no award to work for.

Of course, now that N8KIE said "no more" after this fiasco, it will be harder for a while until others finish. Regardless of what the start date is. N4AAT is sitting parked – said why waste his money on gas when there is no award to go after. The good weather for summer trips will be over before the board even starts to consider this. W6TMD was active for six months after his MP award, and has been parked for the last year or so. He lost interest and there was no new challenge. Yet another 'senior' county hunter, good for everything, with loads of stars, gone. Lost interest. No new challenges. He's the third of the 7 MP holders to be 'gone' from county hunting. How bad will it have to get before there are none to work?

**MARAC: Twiddle thumbs....twiddle thumbs.....King Davve stalls the process....**

Larry, N2OCW, might finish soon, but he is still paying off the travel bills from last year, and every time he goes out, Percy, KA1 Just Plain Rotten, seems to spend the whole day jamming him on 20 meters off net frequency. Why should he run? Another one who likely will have no interest in putting out counties for others to get Diamond. The list drops daily. Larry ran 1500 counties last year. Think of that – 1500 counties run in his quest for Platinum – despite thugs like Percy – giving the rest of the CH the opportunity to finish up dozens of states or even the WBOW for various MARAC awards. How you going to keep him interested? Likely you can chalk him off, too.

If anything, delaying the start date with give N4CD such as advantage, KayZed Too Pee's head will spin. No one else will we out working on it! He succeeded in causing all the MP holders but two to lose interest.

(N9STL and N4CD will likely then lead the pack). Did Davve and Jimm realize that by their delaying things, they were giving the two they were trying to punish the best shot at finishing in the first few? (of course not – logic doesn't apply to James – just 'punishing' N4CD and N9STL).

Percy also seems to delight in jamming on 40M when N9STL is out in FL and nearby. Anything to support Jimm and his maniacal insane vicious streak of self destructive behavior and get 'chirpie' baddie points. .

You can read some of KA1JPR's thuggery here

<http://chnewsonline.com/County%20Hunter%20News%20-%20August%202008.pdf>

One should also note that N8KIE finished running all 3077 counties. What's the reason to go mobile now? Same for N4AAT. He's been everywhere. Same for N4CD.....3 of your 7 MP holders have run all 3077 counties. N7ID is closing in on Plat, and he has run all 3077. Why should he go mobile once he gets Plat? AA9JJ/N9QPQ are working on getting to all 3077 – only a handful left to go. What will keep them interested after that?

WG6X is QRT. W6TMD is chasing DX, not counties. W3CR, who wanted to be one of the first to get MP, is on the injured reserve list and seldom on the radio. Hopefully he'll be back in shape to be in the running for Diamond, but only time will tell. He hasn't been active and still has a handful to finish MP. K5GE said he won't try to be one of the first to get MD – not on his priority list. It's not looking good. Maybe MARAC shot itself in the foot with a fatal wound by waiting...and waiting...and waiting? And even more delays?

**MARAC: Twiddle thumbs....twiddle thumbs.....let KE3VV stall the process.**

It will be harder for the regular county hunters too to collect those Mobile Diamond counties too, if the award ever gets issued. Regardless of the start date, the damage was done. Maybe it is TOO late for MD? It should have been done before W6TMD, WG6X, N8KIE lost interest. N4AAT can 'collect' counties from home just like the others. Why spend money on gas? Same for the others. N9STL can work K9HUH for the counties she needs for Nth time as they travel to FL and back. Who does that leave? N4CD has

250 to finish up second time transmit, and then what? What does that leave? No one. Not a one.

The most important thing is that the award get created, otherwise, there will be even less and less activity or interest. It will be stillborn. DOA.

The other half might sit at home too. Then again, maybe that is what KZ2P wanted all along? He's done a great job for the past ten years running off or trying to run off experienced county hunters. His buddy KA1JPR was gloating on the air that MD was 'killed' in Weslaco and what a great victory it was. It's a shame both of them are determined to do the most damage they can to county hunting. If you look at the experienced county hunters, between them they've run most of them off the 20M SSB net, discouraged them totally from running counties, or they are no longer active because it isn't fun like it used to be.

The membership should be served better by their Directors and Officers and award committee. Remember, the words in MARAC are **MOBILE** amateur radio **AWARDS** club. The President seems to have forgotten that. The award committee seems to have forgotten that. They can't get things done in a timely fashion, and seem to piss off and piss on more people than reward them.

**What is really tragic is that MOST of the Officers and Directors are hard working folks honestly trying to do the right thing, but the 2% of MARAC members (KE3VV, KZ2P with their 'chat room' chirpies) want to control everything and ruin it for the rest of us.**

End of story.

# Now the Membership Watches

So what do we know for sure?

1) We know that Davve and KZ2P would love to kill the Mobile Diamond award entirely. As N8KIE put it: "It's all about N4CD". Even better, KZ2P thinks that N9STL (MP holder) and N4CD are 'having too much fun'. (giggle giggle). Why let them have more fun, run more counties, and help others finish awards by giving them more incentive to put out even more counties? Why try to retain mobile operators like N8KIE, W6TMD, N2OCW, N4AAT, WG6X and K5GE?

2) It's quite obvious that any award idea submitted by N4CD will get lost for as long as possible and delayed as long as possible by KE3VV and KZ2P delaying tactics, then even when the Awards Committee manages to get it out of committee after two whole years - through the Herculean efforts of the Awards Chairman Randy, AA8R, we see that still KE3VV manages by stealth and deception to cause a clueless MARAC President to simply not even address it at the National Meeting. Nor allow any other Director to mention it or bring it up as new business. You've seen the report on the Travesty in Texas.

Your MARAC organization, that was apparently clueless about seeking 'input' for more nominees for CHOTY, was convinced that it suddenly needed more input on Mobile Diamond? Ya gotta be kidding. Where was Davve back then?

3) We know that 5 of the 10 Directors and Officers, 9 of whom can vote on an issue with the 10<sup>th</sup> (President) voting only in case of a tie...would have voted for the Mobile Diamond Award. They had so stated on the K3IMC web site. (It is not known what AB2LS would have done.) Two (KE3VV and KZ2P) would have voted NO. The award would have been created. 6 to 2 or 5 to 3 - with KC6AWX absent). When King Dave and King James realized this, there was only one way to have their minority viewpoint 'win'. The heck with the rest of the Directors. They could go fly a kite. Suck wind. Be ignored. They were given the Wouff Hong. The Rettysnitch.

The excuse of ‘member input’ is really amazing as 5 of the MP holders had publicly stated their opinions on the K3IMC forum, and 2 of them (W6TMD and N4AAT) had helped create the award! The A/C had had two years for that, plus Davve had publicly stated that members don’t get to vote on awards! Never in the history of awards was the ‘membership consulted’ on any award! (It’s amazing that Davve’s head hasn’t exploded yet from all the double talk out of both sides of his mouth).

So where does that leave us?

The Board can be called to a Board meeting by the President and act on this promptly. If it doesn’t happen in a timely fashion, I guess that is a further show of how little respect the membership gets from the President of MARAC, and how little respect the President has for her entire board of Directors. Or for the awards committee as well. (other than KE3VV).

We’ll be reporting month by month on this. It wouldn’t be in this mess if the a/c hadn’t been delayed by KE3VV all along and acted promptly over a year ago.

It’s in MARAC President’s court right now. It’s her move. Or lack of it.

## The County Hunter News Annual Awards

Yep, once again that MARAC seems to not only have dropped the ball, but shot itself in both feet, it’s time for the County Hunter News to step up and start to issue Awards. Even better, you don’t have to be a MARAC member to be eligible, just a dedicated county hunter!

In addition, next month we will introduce several new exciting awards to the county hunting community that you can work toward. This month, we present the County Hunter Annual Awards for 2010.



## The “Extra Mile” Award

Requirements:

1) Proficient mobile operator – SSB, Digital, or CW who has consistently run large numbers of counties on multiple trips each year, **AND who has consistently gone the ‘Extra Mile’ to clean up needs within 150 mile radius of their home QTH. This is 70% of the award criteria.**

Participation in State QSO Parties is a ‘bonus’, either mobile, or from home.

Or

2) Proficient net control – SSB or CW, who has consistently run the net for hundreds of hours a year enabling tens of thousands of contacts, last counties, and relays to take place on a **non-discriminatory basis.**

or

3) Better yet - Both

Disqualifying criteria: Maintaining a ‘black list’ of mobiles or stations you won’t work or relay in for contacts, or regular participation as ANC in such nets.

**Dedication:** The award is dedicated to those who went the ‘extra mile’. Such examples of ‘extra mile’ mobiles from the past include:

**WA0SBR, Ed**, who ran South Dakota end to end twice a year, year after year, to keep it off the ‘most wanted’ list, in addition to trips all over the country and transmitting from all US Counties

**WB9OOG now W4GP, Mark**, who drove 50,000 miles a year ranging out 500-600 miles almost every weekend getting the last counties to finish up folks all over the mid-Atlantic region.

**N8STF, Eldon**, who, for a decade, would never seem to get home early as folks needed this one and that, and Eldon would accommodate, making sure no one needed counties in this home state of MI.

- - - -

Sound Stage: Fan Fare    Lights: Turn up the Spot Lights.....

This year, 2010, the “Extra Mile” Award is issued to the following deserving county hunters

### **Dan, KM9X**

Dan has put in thousands of hours as Net Control on 40M SSB. He has run hundreds of counties a year, making multiple trips each year to IN and KY counties to give out ‘the tough ones’. He participated in the Indiana QSO Party going mobile.

He watches the needs as posted on the K3IMC web site and tries to clean up those needs within range of his QTH on a consistent basis. With KB9MGI, he’s given out hundreds of counties toward the team award.

He chases counties on both SSB and CW. He consistently spots mobile runs on the spotting sites.

Dan was instrumental in the switch from 7238 to the new net frequency of 7188, giving the county hunters a mostly QRM free new net frequency. He helped ‘stake out’ the net frequency and keep it.

Dan has more than ‘gone the extra mile’.

### **Greg, NM2L**

Greg is active on CW – running hundreds of counties mobile, and putting in hundreds of hours a week. When he heads out on business trips, he will take the rig along and run counties while on those trips.

As net control, Greg announces and accurately spots mobile runs, and is active on 40-17M. He's a frequent participant in State QSO Parties. He works hard to clean up needs in 'his neck of the woods'.

Greg has more than 'gone the extra mile'.

## **Joe, N5UZW**

Joe has consistently put in a thousand hours a year running the 40M SSB net. During the past year, he has made dozens of trips to clean up needs nearby, and made trips to MS and elsewhere to help finish off county hunters. He has an excellent signal from the mobile and one of the best stations on 40M to help run the net. Often he's there from early morning to late evening on 40M to help out when there appears to be no one else around (he has the radio on). He surely goes the extra mile to make the 40M net operate well. He was also one of the few who helped the County Hunters acquire a mostly QRM net frequency of 7188.

Joe has more than 'gone the extra mile'.

## **Larry, N2OCW**

Larry drove over 26,000 county hunting miles in 2009, giving out over 1000 different counties in over 25 states. Despite the handicap of constant QRM from 'club stations' on 20M, he gave out the needed counties to those seeking the counties, stars, Bingo, MG or MP contacts, and worked hard to clean up the needs of many. He's active on SSB and CW, and has joined the hunt on 17M as well.

From his QTH in WV, he roamed around trying to finish off many – reducing the pile of needs for WV at the same time. Active from home on

both SSB and CW, he's now just one away from Platinum status and certainly has gone the 'extra mile' to help out.

Larry surely went the 'extra mile' to help others out.

## **Lloyd, NX4W**

Lloyd is the most active PSK-31 mobile on the county hunter net. Activating hundreds of counties each year, running entire states, self spotting to alert the county hunter community, he leads the pack in giving out contacts for the Digital Award. He's also consistently run on SSB, cleaning up needs around his QTH.

Lloyd makes multiple trips a year including to Dayton Hamvention and other activities. He's consistently year after year one of the most active mobiles.

When it comes to dedication to PSK-31 and running counties on SSB, Lloyd has 'gone the extra mile'.

## **Scottie, N4AAT**

Scottie must have driven 30,000 county hunting miles to help finish off dozens of county hunters in the past year. He'll hop in the diesel powered truck and drive 500 miles to give out a last WBOW or next to last. He puts out thousands of counties consistently on SSB each year, and will do CW on request from the mobile. He regularly 'cleans up' needs within 250 miles of this QTH, going to WV, VA, GA, NC frequently.

From home, he's often there to help out on 20M SSB helping to run the net with a big signal, and the same on 40M. He chases counties on SSB and CW up through 10 meters, and is in there chasing mobiles in the State QSO Parties.

## **K8ZZ, Ed**

With an outstanding mobile signal, Ed has consistently made sure that the needs in MI are as small as possible by multiple trips each year taking detours to give out those needed counties. He makes multiple trips a year out of his home state to put out hundreds of counties, and participates in county hunter activities from putting on a non-Marac sponsored Mini in MI, to presenting programs at the Dayton Hamvention. Before his last QTH move, he spent thousands of hours running and helping mobiles with a big signal from northern MI, and still helps out whenever he can.

Ed has ‘gone the extra mile’ for the county hunting community. Ed also received the CHOTY CW 2010 from the ‘other’ awards organization.

## **W0GXQ, Jerry**

Jerry is both a good mobile operator and net control station with ‘good ears’. He was one of the pioneers on 30M, and is now very active on 17M and up both from home and mobile. He frequently takes trips to clean up needs within MN, SD and ND, and is a prolific spotter of mobile runs. He puts out counties from 80M through 10 taking the time to run them all in most counties. When requested, he’ll get on SSB for some contacts.

Jerry was also acknowledged by ‘one of the other awards groups’ as Best CW Mobile of the Year 2010 and Best CW Net Control of the Year 2010.

He has ‘gone the extra mile’ for the county hunters.

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That’s the editor’s pick for the “**Extra Mile**” Award Winners for 2010. All of the above deserve recognition for their contributions to county hunting in 2009/2010.

**An Invitation to our readers.** If you'd like to tell us about the mobiles from the past who fit the 'gone the extra mile' criteria, please write and share your thoughts with the readers of the CHNews. We'll include what we can in future issues space permitting. There has to be some fascinating tales out there just waiting to be told! How about N9CHU, Ace? Who took care of your state? How about 'Never Never Home'?

## WARC 2010 Preparations

From ARRL Spectrum Defense Matters Newsletter

Preparations for the 2012 World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-12) are reaching a critical phase. A November meeting of Working Party 5A, the home of the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is the last opportunity to substantially finish studies evaluating a potential secondary Amateur Radio allocation between 415 and 526.5 kHz. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4Q, as the United States Spokesperson for Amateur radio issues at the ITU, is working hard to effectively and fairly present the case for Amateur Radio over significant resistant by maritime interests inside and outside the United States.

WRC-12 will also consider a number of items that could, in a worst case scenario, adversely impact Amateur Radio. WRC-12 will consider an allocation to the radiolocation service within the 30-300 MHz, potentially affecting the 50, 144, and 222 MHz bands. Also on the agenda are potential allocations to HF oceanographic radar between 3 and 50 MHz. These radars have operated on an ad hoc experimental basis for a number of years, and while they are unquestionably useful, they are incompatible with Amateur Radio.

The ARRL is working hard to make sure that the final documents for WRC-12, which are the template by which things will be done, fairly represents the ham radio community and gives the technical backup to our positions.

## CQ and other Awards

These award were announced by Ted, K1BV, Awards Custodian at CQ Magazine, Sponsor of the USACA

|             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| USACA #1199 | Bob, AJ5C   | June 28, 2010 |
| USACA #1200 | Jerry, K7LY | July 12, 2010 |

These awards were announced by Randy, AA8R, Awards Chairman

|             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| USC-CW #110 | Jim, VA3XOV | July 16. 2010 |
| USA-CW #111 | Bill, NU0Q  | July 17. 2010 |

|                 |             |               |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Third Time #223 | Phil, VE1WT | June 29, 2010 |
| Bingo #318      | Ann, KB9YVT | July 9, 2010  |
| Third Time #224 | Bob, KA9JAC | July 10, 2010 |
| Bingo II #70    | Jeff, W9MSE | July 14. 2010 |

## Answer to the Quiz

Go here to figure out which one is where

<http://geology.com/state-high-points.shtml>

I don't have a clue as to how many you can drive to. I've been up about six of them along the way. High ones are great to look at – Denali – Mt. Ranier.

## Events for County Hunters in August

Wow...it looks like a great month for CW county hunters coming up, and even an event or two for the SSB folks. There will be some activity on SSB in the state QSO Parties so you can hunt for it. In addition, some also now have PSK-31, RTTY or other data modes allowed for QSO Points. We provide links so you can get the detailed rules, county abbreviations, etc.

Info courtesy of the ARRL Contest Corral, by ARRL, Inc, Newington CT 06111

\* \* \*

Aug 7, 0001Z - Aug 8, 2359Z

### **10-10 Summer QSO Party**

You never know with E-Skip season still in swing - take a listen

10-10 Summer Phone QSO Party  
Call, name, 10-10 number, S/P/C  
[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org)

If you have no 10-10 number, simply say none. All are welcome to participate.

### **North American QSO Party CW**



North American QSO Party -CW

Name and state

[ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)

Aug 7, 1800Z - Aug 8, 0600Z

\* \* \* \*

August 14-16

**Maryland-DC QSO Party**

Maryland County/City or S/P/C

[mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org](http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org)

Aug 14, 1600Z - Aug 16 0000Z

\* \* \* \*

August 21-22

**North American QSO Party - SSB**

Name and state

[ncjweb.com](http://ncjweb.com)

Aug 21, 1800Z - Aug 22, 0600Z

**New Jersey QSO Party**

Serial and NJ county or S/P/C

[www.qsl.net/w2rj](http://www.qsl.net/w2rj)

Aug 21, 2000Z - Aug 23 0200Z

\* \* \*

August 28-29

## **HI QSO PARTY**

John, K1ER, one of our regular readers in HI, writes with some good news

“We made a big pitch at the several radio clubs for participation in the HI QSO Party Aug 27-29, Phone, CW, RTTY and PSK.

Dates: Aug 28 0700Z to Aug 29 2200Z

Rules and info at <http://karc.net> then select operating events.

Suggested freqs; CW General lower limit to up 25 SSB General lower limit to up 25, digital follow ARRL band plan.

Planned QTH ID:

HAW=Hawaii

HON or FORD=Honolulu or Ford Island

KAL=Kalawao

KAU or NII=Kauai

MAU,MOL or LAN=Maui

(Looks like someone just dreamed up the abbrev)

Each station can be worked 4 times per band, once per mod SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK

73 John K1ER

PS: KH6BB (USS Missouri at Pearl Harbor) should be on the air looking for counties. Currently has about 1100 confirmed. K1ER may be on the air there or at home (both Honolulu County).

I do not know if all 5 counties will be on the air. Have not heard of anyone going to Kalawao with band condx so poor. I'll go over there and run the

county line when the bands are good again. But there should be activity from 4 counties.

**Kansas QSO Party**

RS(T) and KS county or S/P/"DX"

[www.ksqsoparty.org](http://www.ksqsoparty.org)

Aug 28, 1400Z - Aug 29 2000Z

**Ohio QSO Party**

Ohio QSO Party

Serial and S/P or "DX"

[www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org)

Aug 28, 1600Z - Aug 29, 0400Z

**Antique Wireless Association Convention**

August 17-21, 2010

Rochester, NY

<http://www.awamuseum.org/>

This an interesting one for those interested in Old Tyme Radio. Their Museum is something NOT to be missed – full of spark gap radios, early ear receivers and transmitters, hundreds of TV sets, commercial AM and FM radios, telegraph keys and equipment. You won't see a collection this big and variety anywhere else on the planet. .

September....

There's good news for the ARK QSO Party scheduled for Sept 11 according to N5NA. At least three mobiles will be active this year, maybe more – putting out most of the state. More info next issue. Here's some preliminary route info

De N5NA: “The AR QSO Party is looking good this year. K5END, AD5WI, and myself are making plans to attend. Also, Jerry, K5YAA, said he'd come over. “

<http://arqp.n5na.net>