# COUNTY LINE ROAD RUNNER

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An ARRL Affiliated Club

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## Deadline for next Newsletter:

January 20, 1995

## In this Issue:

Opening Editorial	3
Dateline CW	3
Net Operating Tips	4
Silent Keys	5
Counties Needed	5
Members Speak!	5
CHUBS! Upgrade Announced	5
From the Secretary	6
MARAC Information Packet	6
ARRL Memberships	6
Address Changes, Corrections, New	
Members	6
Upcoming Events	6
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## Greetings and Happy New Year.

While this certainly will not be a regular thing, a lengthy editorial, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new editor. Also, I want to be part of the chorus of "Thank you's" to Bob Dyson, KOAYO, for his many, many years of service as editor of this publication.

#### Self introduction

Introduced to county hunting while a new ham in Central Pennsylvania about 15 years ago, I quickly became hooked ... both as a chaser of counties and as one who prowled back roads of Pennsylvania, and later Ohio, and other states running counties on any band where I could make contacts. I am USA-CA 710 and need about 100 for second time around, for Bingo, and for all-20M.

About to get back on the air following a move in mid-1994 from Western Ohio to South Carolina, I soon will be back in the chase. My work load is such, however, that my mobile trips may be more limited than they were in the past. We shall see, of course, for the bug always tends to bite.

Professionally, I am a writer, editor and publisher in the field of stamp collecting. Some of you recognize me from that area. To others who have received MRC's from me with lots of old stamps on them, that is the reason. Currently I am editing one monthly magazine, handling ad sales and production on a bi-monthly, and directing the editorial side of a lot of other projects. I recently authored a CD-ROM for a Dallas publisher and have just updated it; and have contracts for two additional CD-ROM's. Fortunately, I type fast.

## Newsletter guidelines / editorial

I am a positive person and really do not want to be bombarded by negative issues. If you have a problem with another MARAC member, or a MARAC policy or practice, or something else having to do with county-hunting, you need to express your concerns to your district director or one of the officers. I do not believe in "trial by media." Should something come of such a complaint, we certainly will look at discussing it here.

Issues that may be viewed as constructive criticism, or issues raised for discussion, will be considered. Editorial prerogative (that is, whim of the editor) will be the final judge.

My overriding belief is that we are all brought together by our common love of a hobby, which—by definition—is a form of relaxation. I never seem to relax in the face of extended controversy.

We seek all forms of articles that enhance the enjoyment of county hunting. Possible subjects may include (but certainly not be restricted to):

- equipment modifications;
- more specifically, antenna tips;
- product reviews (I do want to know if you are financially involved in the product, which need not eliminate the review from publication);
- innovative computer uses (keep it clean, folks, this is a family publication);
  - how to plan/execute mobile trips;
  - award tracking; and, much more.

Articles may be as short as a single paragraph and as long as you want. If you produce something too long for a single newsletter issue, we can break it up. Try me, I can handle that.

We will continue with "needs," and all the other features that you have come to expect.

An area the Board is discussing at this time is advertising, both display advertising from commercial enterprises and classified advertising to allow individuals to sell, seek, or swap equipment. Watch for more along these lines, and let me know if you have something to advertise ... so you can be in the forefront when the flag is lowered.

#### Guidelines / mechanical

As I noted above, I am heavily into electronic publishing. Thus, I can accept diskettes in almost any format. My preference is MS-DOS Word for Windows 2.0. I can convert about anything else, except for Word 6.0 and WordPerfect 6.0. So, if you are sending me something on disk, identify the format (preferably on the label) and also send a hard copy produced on a printer with a good ribbon or on a laser or ink jet printer.

If you are uncertain about my ability to convert your text processor format to something I can use, story you article on disk as an ASCII file, preferably without carriage returns at the end of every line.

If I cannot pick up your disk, I would prefer to use OCR to scan your hard copy. Re-typing leads to the possibility of typographical errors, and I will be making enough of them anyway. Oh yes, I also can handle a MacIntosh disk with the article saved as an ASCII file or in Word format.

If you are on-line, my CompuServe address is 70400,1300, GEnie address is R.Sine2, and Internet address is rsine@cybernetics.net. That should cover everyone, and some more than once.

I also encourage submission of any form of artwork: tables and charts, drawings, photos, etc. I can handle any of it.

If you send a disk and want it returned, send an envelope and return postage. You will find, for the most part, that the cost of a disk is far less than the cost of postage and envelope.

For you techies, here is the system I use: Word 2.0 for my text processing; Word's own translator or WordPort for file conversion of what you send; an H-P IIcx scanner and PhotoStyler for artwork; OmniPage Professional for optical character reading; and PageMaker 5.0 for page layout. 1 am working with an MS-DOS system, 486DX2-66 with both fixed and removable hard disk systems, and output onto an H-P LJ4. The pages, on high-quality Hammermill laser paper, will be shipped to the printer complete.

OK, that's it for openers. Now, let's have some fun. - "WN

# Dateline CW By Ed, KN4Y

"Time has no divisions to mark its passage, there is a never a thunderstorm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new year. It is only CW county hunters who QNI."

I say it twice, I will never mix Gator's deluxe with orange juice, I will never mix Gator's deluxe with orange juice at another old year's wake. Gulping Tylenol by the handful I was finally able to see what was left of my radio shack after communicating on the last day of 1994. I noticed my HF rig was lying upside down in party mix, I guessed Gator and I had worked a VK station, or maybe we were trying to confuse the QRM. In a brief moment of focus I noticed several illegible entries in my log. I wonder if it is against the law for a spifflicated ham to

operate an amateur radio? Naw, that would change the character of the 75-meter band. Suddenly the 2-meter rig blared out the repeater ID and both of my eye lids slammed shut blowing the wax out of both ears and straightening my nose hairs, I quickly shut the rig off. Shutting off a radio is not difficult, I wonder why some people have a problem with this concept, enough thinking, the pain is increasing.

While sipping ice water I make a pot of coffee with an extra measure of coffee and put some rve bread in the toaster set to burn hoping the carbon would filter out the nasties in my stomach. I went out on the porch to escape the chant of the percolator which seemed to mock me with its burping CW. After the third cup of coffee and several pieces of blackened toast I was finally able to focus both eyes at the same time, but for only short periods of time. After three hours of stress but feeling somewhat more in control I suddenly realized that I had seen a mike connected to my HF rig. Despite the thundering sound of cracking bones I went back into the shack and sure enough my mike was connected to the HF rig. I really must have been possessed, but to be sure I turned the rig on. To my horror the AM indicator was on and the readout screamed 27.185 MHz, I am gonna kill me a Gator, but first an offering and the feel of coolness at the porcelain altar of the vanquished.

This is a good time to interrupt this sorry soliloquy to bring youthe following information. The Dade County HF Society and Florida Skip is going to reactivate the Florida QSO party in February (next month for those in tune with the times). This has been a off again on again venture. But for the first time the Florida QSO party will recognize the mobile operator. I am putting funds aside for a driver bribe so I can go mobile and run CW in a few Florida counties. Please listen for me around 14,054, 21,055 or 28,055 KHz., I can use the points. Mark your calendar 1200z on 2/11 to 1200z on 2/12.

Yawn, that nap made me feel better and thirsty so I got a cold Coke to quench this craving for wetness. After the second sip I heard off in the distance the bark of an unnuffled internal combustion engine, sounds like Gator is headed this way, where did I put that corked baseball bat? The barking truck turned into the driveway without the usual cloud of dust and swish swish of the 96-inch whip; boy, Gator must also feel badly.

"What brings you here so early in 1995?" I said with all the pain and anger in my voice that I could muster. "I have made a New Year's resolution to get an amateur radio license this year and I have a question." Gator knew how to subdue my anger but I still asked, "what the heck happened in my shack last night, G A T O R?"

"Well nothing really, I brought over a gallon of my finest and we were just sitting in the shack drinking OJ AC Zappers and listening to the other drunks on the repeater also waiting for the new year to arrive. I asked if you could get the CB band because I wanted to listen for Slippery Sue the eel saleswoman, so yo turned on the big rig and got the CB band for me. I did not know that I had to know the frequencies, I just switch to the channel I want. You got a book out that listed the channel number and frequency and we found Slippery Sue on 27.185. I heard Slippery Sue call for me and I asked you to hook up the mike, but you did not respond. You just laid there on the floor with a grin on your face like when you worked your last county. I found a mike in the drawer and hooked it up but I could not be heard, so I went out and used my rig in the truck. The customer is always right so I left right away."

That sounds reasonable I thought, "but why was my rig upside down?" "I turned the rig over to see if there was switch on the bottom that would allow me to talk on the CB band, you

were in no condition to answer any questions, so I shut the shack door when I left because I did not want dipso mosquitoes loose in the wild or a buzz with a buzz."

The pain in my head had eased up; boy, I would not want to live in a drugless society. Then I asked, "Gator why are you not feeling bad after celebrating the arrival of the new year?" "The secret is to mix lotta mix with little Gato. fix, and not mix lotta Gator fix with little mix, like you was doing." "Thanks Gump." "What?" "Never mind, by the way, what was your question about amateur radio?"

"What is a callbook?" "That is like a telephone book except you look up the call sign to find the person's name and address. The callbook used to be a listing by the FCC assigned call areas but it is now merely a listing by call sign. You still find it referred to incorrectly as a call sign area directory." "What do you mean?" Gator asked heading for the refrigerator. "If you pop a beer I will kill you!" I shouted. "Hold your horses, I just gonna git a Coke, want one?" "No, bring me a tomato juice" I said almost apologetically. "Wanna chew, that will clean you out," said Gator laughing histrionically."

"Here is an example of what I mean. This booklet reads county hunters call area directory; now you look up W3DYA." "That is Norm the one you said has a cute hard-driving wife." "XYL." "What?" "That will be another lesson. In what State does he live?" "He be in Texas" "Now on this FCC map on the wall what states are shown for the third call area?" "Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and District of Columbia." "What do you notice?" "Texas is not in the third call area" "Right Gator, so this directory is really a listing by call sign and not call area" "Is this fact important enough for me to remember" "No, the important thing to remember is that there are 10 call areas; here take this callbook and look it over" "Thanks, but by the way, why could I not be heard when I used your rig on the CB band?" "The rig is designed to receive the CB band but not to transmit on it" "Neutered?" "Yes"

Breaking the silence of the crisp air was heard "Boing, Boing, Boing," the sound from a distant bell. "That be my beeper, gotta go," and Gator got into his truck and roared off. Where did I put the Tyleno!?

The ice cream said to the banana, let's split and 53 mobiles did just that during October and November and while out checked into the CW net. Those moving along were: W0UBT, N0CYB, AA0PY, K0HQE, W0OWY, NF0X, W0WYJ, W0QWS, W0AV, K1RH, K2HVN. K2HPV, WB2ABD, N2CWG, WA2MUA, KA3MMM, N3FVP, WN3C, KF3P, W3XE, WA3QNT, W33F, WU3H, KA4IFF, WA4KER, KN4Y, KB4XK, K4QFK, WU4S, WB4EQF, KC5P, W5OBT, K5GA, N5QLZ, AI5P, KG5J, K6QWH, WA6VJP, KH6AQ, W6HOR, WA7JHQ, KK7X, K7GJZ, WD7X, W08L, KM8U, K8BHG, K88HB, AK8A, K8CW, WA9QNI, N9JF, WB9OOG. Please note that this mobile list will be discontinued after the December listing.

# Net Operating Tips by W4RKV

When a mobile has been announced by the NCS and starts his run, there are usually a lot of stations waiting to work him, particularly if the county is a rare one. The moment the mobile says "QRZ," stations will start calling, and anything the mobile adds after that, such as his call and county, will be covered up by the boomers. Since the term "QRZ" is the trigger, why not make it the LAST word voiced?

A format similar to the following should cut down on a lot

of the doubling: "Kalawao, HI, N9CHU, QRZ." This brief announcement says it all, and QRZ at the end where it belongs. (Tnx, Ace)

# Silent Keys

With sorrow, we announce the recent death of the following MARAC members:

WA9GOH, Charles Hemenway, C47, USA-CA 223; W0FBB, Cmdr. Rudolph E. Veverka, R377, USA-CA 167.

## Counties Needed ...

#### ... for USA-CA

W6ISQ: Campbell, SD. NX5Z: McDowell & Webster, WV.

N5DKW: Blackford, Dearborn, Franklin, Grant, Lawrence, Madison, Switzerland, Tipton & Warren, IN; Bremer, Butler, Dubuque, Keokuk & Marshall, IA; Bell, Breathitt, Campbell, Estill, Franklin, Grant, Harlan, Knox, McCreary, Menifee, Morean, Pike & Wolfe, KY.

#### ... for other awards

WB6ALC (for Bingo): Candler, GA; Franklin, ID; Jasper, IL; Daviess, Mercer, & Owen, KY; Hancock & Somerset, ME; Gratiot, Hillsdale & Montgomery, MI; Madison, MS; Grant, ND; Mifflin, PA; Allendale & Chesterfield, SC. Phone: (818) 966-5444; fax (818) 339-5403.

N7OTR (2nd time): Shelby, OH; Pickens, SC; Marshall & Shannon, SD; Gaines, Kent, & Midland, TX; Doddridge, WV.

# Members Speak!

John, KIER—Please continue to run a CW column. I usually read it first. I decided to finish SSB first, so I frequently don't find enough time to run every county or line on CW ... I move down there on request if someone needs the county I'm running. Unless I'm on a trip only to run counties, then I try to hit SSB & CW, 20 & 40. The CW guys are quite dedicated although I think they're outnumbered by the phone crowd.

I disagree with the December Net Tip on relays. The fastest relay technique is a long list with the calls heard reported frequently, e.g., (VOX on) "got ABE, ER, LP, more?" That stops those from continuing to call so you can hear the next layer. If you try to just copy the "calls you hear," you'll continue to hear the loudest signal. I do agree that the worst technique is the one-at-a-time relay. I only use that on a very slow day, with very few running or very few relays. I also think the amount of time devoted to relays should be limited to perhaps a minute unless the conditions are terrible. Perhaps the way to accomplish that is to take one long list using the technique above. I think I can get 12-15 stations relayed within a minute that way, then "take a last call."

The comment about relays for loud stations is right on the mark. Anyone able to give the mobile a 55 to 59 and get one back didn't need a relay! Perhaps any mobile hearing a 59 signal on a relay should say "sorry, try again on last call." I have noticed that some stations do NOT try to call before relays, then ask for a relay. Perhaps the suggestion to relay those heard calling, who didn't make it, has merit. I stopped doing that

because so many in that category don't want a relay ... so usually I ask who wants a relay before helping them.

County hunters are the world's best QSLers. I have a 100 percent QSL return rate for every DX country, but far less than that for all DX stations. CH are close to 100%. In general, it is a very friendly, helpful bunch of people.

K0AYO, Bob—In a recent newsletter, I requested that anyone receiving duplicate copies please notify me of such in order to save on postage, etc. Thanks to those who responded. If you have renewed your membership after a "lapse" I will send back issues to you (Third Class in the U.S. only), from my limited supply. Please do not assume these are "duplicate" copies!!

KF9FU, Carl—The 40M net was never intended to be a national net, folks. Normal propagation on 40M daytime dictates regional nets. The intent was to east the load on 20M relays and provide a home for mobiles far down the list to run. In the Midwest one simply skips over most of the country generally on 20M, thus 40M. The 40M net has been in operation on and off for many years. Some on 20M have openly criticized the net, yet nothing stops them from beginning their own regional net on 40M daytime.

A Western and Eastern set of regional nets would be ideal. As for the problems with the Baja Net, never has propagation on 40M daytime been so long. Nets all over the band are having major problems. For years we might hear Baja in the noise and vice versa. We never had problems Now we do. The solution is simple: if the frequency is not clear in your area, don't run on the frequency. Generally if a mobile is west of the Missouri line, problems could occur with Baja Net during its net time.

It seems wise to seek a clear frequency other than 7.238 for western mobile only during the Baja Net time, the long skip on 40M won't last forever, and the need for a Western regional net off 7.238 seems a great idea during the daytime.

KZ2P, Jim—I would like to thank Bill, N7OTR, and everyone who assisted me during my recent trip to Florida. Everything was going well until we got into Duval, FL, then the engine swallowed a valve. I was able to access four local repeaters, but no one would acknowledge me and come to my assistance. I broke the New and Bill make a call for roadside assistance. Within an hour a tow truck was there. As a side note, it was 45 minutes before the highway patrol made an appearance. My experience just reaffirms the need for an active net as the County Hunters. I hope no one every needs assistance, but it sure is comforting to know that help is there when you need it! Again, thanks to Bill and everyone who helped—see you on the net.

# CHUBS! Upgrade Announced

CHUBS! Development has released Ver. 4.0 of the countyhunting software. A major feature of this release is what the firm terms a "buy only what you need" approach.

Among its features are complete logging, editing, deleting, and printing for both fixed and mobile stations; award processing for most sponsored awards, such as USA-CA, MARAC, and Mobile QSL Bureau awards; default values for common entries; county and county/state line pick list; county hunters call book with quarterly updates; DXCC pick list; print utility; and MRC processing.

Normally priced at \$64.95, the program is on sale at \$59.95 until March 31. A demo disk that logs up to 50 contacts is

available for \$5 (non-refundable). A complete price list is available from Bud Webb, NOOQZ, c/o CHUBS! Development, 1192 Via Alta, Santa Maria, CA 93455-5642.

## From the Secretary

If your mailing label indicates 199502 or 199503, it is time to renew. Dues with First Class mailing of the Newsletter are \$19/yr. Dues with Third Class mailing of the Newsletter are \$16/yr. Note that Third Class mailing is available within the United States only. Dues with the Newsletter mailed Air Mail to all continents other than North America are \$30/yr. Multiple year renewals and business-size SASE's with renewals are also very much appreciated. Please make your check or money order payable to MARAC and mail to the Secretary, Don Magers, KE5WL, 406 Cherry Park Drive, Sherman, TX 75090-6709.

### MARAC Information Packet

Get the word out to potential new members and interested County Hunters that a County Hunting Information Packet is available. The Information Packet includes information about MARAC, QSLing, Net Operation, County Hunting supplies, etc. Send the request with a business-size envelope with 32-cent postage to: MARAC, 406 Cherry Park Drive, Sherman, TX 75090-6709

Europeans can get the packet from Eddie, G4KHG.

## **ARRL Memberships**

I wish to thank our MARAC members who have demonstrated their support of MARAC by submitting their ARRL memberships through the MARAC Secretary.

September: K4ZT, WD9HDR, N4EED.

October: NF0X, W4MRD, KJ8F, W0WYX, K8GPC, KA4SAX, KA1JPR, KA1OBC.

November: W0UM, WB4EQF, N6OKX, WA3QNT, WS3F, K4CCW, WD9EJK, W0DSY, NK7B, W3DR.

I process these applications on a monthly basis. My cutoff day for each processing cycle for these is the last day of the month. If your ARRL renewal notice requests you return it to them by April 15, I should receive it on or before March 31. We do not want anyone to miss a copy of *QST*, because of their support of MARAC.

For each ARRL membership, Regular or Senior Memberships, MARAC gets a \$2 fee for a renewal or \$5 for a new membership. To take advantage of this, I ask that you mail the ARRL membership application and your check made out to MARAC for the amount of the ARRL dues to: MARAC, 406 Cherry Park Drive, Sherman, TX 75090-6709.

# Address Changes, Corrections, New Members

- R-1227 KS4GM, David "Dom" Domina, 3525 Hanover Dr., Hope Mills, NC 28348-2291, =Cumberland
- R-1488 KD2Q, Gary R. Long, 16 Greenfield, Dr., Allentown, NJ 08501-9430, =Monmouth
- R-1580 WA4HIG, Robert H. Dochterman, 205 Pequot Trail East, Greenwich, RI 02818-1740, =Bristol
- R-2176 KB4HB, Richard Elling, P.O. Box 388, Ellendale, TN 38029-0388, =Shelby

- R-2272 VE2YM, Guy Bougie, 59 St. Francois, Rigaud, PQ, CANADA JOP 1P0
- R-2494 KD8MK, Bryan Allen, 537 Boutell, Grand Blanc, MI 48439-1533
- R-2592 KK5CP, Dan "D.J." Reul, Route 5-Box 8, Brownwood, TX 76801-9801, =Brown
- R-2597 KF7SG, 550 Gable, Hanford Way, CA 93230-6920
- KN4RI, Randy L. Hatt, 9245 S. Morrish Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473-9126
- W9ZD, Lou Wenisch, 1307 Laurel Ave., Venice, FL 34292

#### **New Members**

- R-2623 KJ7ES, Steve Jones, 31801 N. Black Cross Rd., Cave Creek, AZ 85331-5781, =Maricopa
- R-2649 N7PIB, S.K. "San" Smith, 8705 N. Centennial Dr., Jackson, WY 83001, =Teton
- R-2650 OA4ED, Augusto "Gus" Morales, P.O. Box 633, Miraflores, Lima 18, PERU
- R-2651 KD1CT, R.L. "Bob," Emory, R.R. 1-Box 103, Barnsteak, NH 03128-9708. =Belknap
- R-2652 KE4KGB, Joyce Melden, P.O. Box 70993, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307, =Moore
- R-2653 AA9JJ, Frank L. Yohe, Jr., P.O. Box 1147, Mount Vernon, IL 62864-1147, =Jefferson
- R-2654 AC0A ,Bill Freeland, 12601 W. 100th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215-1901, =Johnson

## Mark Your Calendar

September 28-30 is the weekend of the MARAC Pacific District mini at Las Vegas, Ken, KB7QO reports. Details are upcoming, he adds.

The host promises a great and exciting time in an exciting city with more things to do than you will have time for (which perhaps is one of the reasons why you will not find a clock in any of the casinos).

# **Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Contact
3/23-25/95	SC District Mini, Olathe, KS	K0AYO
4/8-9/95	MARAC SSB Contest	W0OWY
4/20-22/95	Michigan Mini	AK8A & N8EMV
5/6-7/95	MARAC CW Contest	W3DYA
7/5-8/95	MARAC National Convention	AA2AV
9/27-30/95	Pacific District Mini, Las Vegas,	NV KB7QO
11/2-4/95	SE District Mini	KM4W
7/1-5/96	MARAC National Convention	W0OWY
7/97	MARAC National Convention	KN4JR
7/98	MARAC National Convention	WB4FBS

(tnx to The Weekly Hunter for the information)

#### Finis

Well, we got through the first one. Looks like this is going to be fun, after all. Keep those cards and letters coming! -- 'WN

# MARAC SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT MINI

ANNOUNCING: The 1995 South Central Mini DATES: March 23 - 25, 1995

LOCATION: The Best Western, Hallmark Inn South/Olathe I-35 & Ks 150 (Sante Fe), Olathe, Ks. There is a Denny's resturant across the parking lot to the south.

ROOM RATES: 1 person, 1 bed \$36.00/night; 2 persons, 1 bed \$38.70/night; 2 persons, 2 beds, \$41.40/night. All rates plus tax.

RESERVATIONS: 913-782-4343. Tell them you are with the Amateur Radio Group. A block of 30 rooms will be held until March 1, 1995, after that, room rates will be honored on a space available basis. If you want a room I suggest that you get your reservations in as soon as possible. They have 85 rooms and they are often full.

ACTIVITIES: Thursday night, possible Casino gaming on the Missouri River if anyone is interested; Friday morning, weather permitting, Golf tournament; No host Dinner Friday evening at location to be announced later.

HOSPITALITY: Opens at noon Thursday, hosted by Joyce, WB9NUL.

PRIZES: ALL PRIZE DONATIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED.

**DINNER:** 5 meat all you can eat buffet at Santa Fe Bar-B-Que about 5 blocks. Includes free soft drink and coffee refills. \$11.00/person! Beer Extra.

REGISTRATION: \$13 per family or individual, includes photo and 1 badge. Extra badges \$3.

COMPLETE FORM BELOW AND SEND WITH REGISTRATION FEE AND COST OF SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER TO: ROBERT DYSON 8943 OVERHILL CIRCLE DE SOTO KS 66018

NAME	CALL	USACA #_
SPOUSE	CALL	USACA #_
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
REGISTRATION FEEDINNER(#) AT \$11.00	) <u></u>	
EXTRA BADGES(#) A	T \$3.00 (LIST NAME/CAL	<b>L)</b>
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED		