



The

FLASH

The Official Newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club

December - January 1999

Volume 28 Issue 4

From the 'Big Fish'

By Jeff Clarke, KU8E
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MRRC CALENDAR

**K8MR Christmas Party
And MRRC Meeting**
January 9, 7:30 PM EST

North American QSO Party - CW
January 9-10

North American QSO Party - SSB
January 16-17

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
January 23-25

CQ WW 160 Meter Contest - CW
January 29-31

**NCJ North American Sprint -
Phone**
February 7 (UTC)

NCJ North American Sprint - CW
February 14 (UTC)

**ARRL International DX Contest -
CW**
February 20-21

CQ WW 160 Meter Contest - SSB
February 26-28

**ARRL International DX Contest -
SSB**
March 6-7

Season Greetings from the *Big Fish*! I hope everyone had as good of a 1998 as we did here. The year started out for me as part of the **VP5FXB** operation in *ARRL CW* (great fun as usual). During the spring we did a big multi-multi operation from **K8CC** in *WPX SSB* using my call. We ended up 2nd place in the USA...not bad for the first time out. I did the usual low power effort in *CW SS*, but came up a little short of the 1000 Q barrier. For *CQWW CW* we did multi-multi from **W8AV** and made over 4000 QSOs with great conditions and a preview of what's to come next year. The contesting year ended for me at **K8MK**, for the *ARRL 160 contest* with good QSO totals but less DX compared to previous years.

The past year was also rewarding for me from a personal and professional standpoint. At work I have been helping out on the Y2K problem and have enjoyed the financial benefits from that. The end of this year brought me a promotion and a shift from doing mainframe development over to the PC world, which I am excited about. On the personal side, I found the person I want to spend my life with. Jan and I will be married in January 1999.

As we look toward 1999 the first order of business is to have some fun! That means it's time for the annual **K8MR** New Years' party to be held on Saturday January 9th. In 1999 it will also be time for me to turn over the reins of *Big Fish* to someone else. Due to other commitments I will not be able to run for office again. So start thinking about those nominations.

Dayton should be different this year since we decided to discontinue having the suite. At the Findlay meeting, **K8AQM** came forward and offered to organize the "1st annual *Mad River Flea Market Suite*". It will be a place for that weary contester to stop by for a cold drink and some contest gossip during their trek through the flea market. I'm sure Ted will need support in this effort.

A number of us on the net have also been talking about an informal get-together on Saturday night of Dayton. We are planning on either the burger joint across from the Crown Plaza that **W8AV**, **K8MFO**, and myself eat at. Another choice might be the Chinese place that **K8MR** frequents, which is just down the street. If you have any other suggestions let me know.

Happy New Years from the **KU8E** family, and until next time

73 de Jeff, KU8E

MRRC Scores

Collected by Jim Stahl, K8MR
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SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY

WA8RJF			K8MR		
50	45	21	50	92	34
144	103	37	144	110	33
222	41	25	222	34	20
432	54	30	432	57	25
903	8	7	tot:	293	112
1.2G	19	13	score:	43,008	
2.3G	2	2			
5.7G	1	1			
tot:	273	136			

SWEEPSTAKES

CW

K9TM 1057-79-164,892-A
KU8E 944-79-149,152-A

K8CC 555-74- 82,140-B 8 hrs
W8AJ 303-73- 44,238-B K8MR op.
N8TR 300-72- 43,200-B K8MR op.
K8AZ 292-70- 40,800-B K8MR op.
AC8E 300-64- 38,400-B K8MR op.
K8RM 256-67- 34,438-B K8MR op.
K8MR 231-70- 32,340-B

W8RU 609-78- 95,004-Q
K8DD 425-79- 67,150-Q
N8ET 121-58- 14,036-Q
K8MFO 79-79- 12,462-Q
N8CQA 43-29- 2,924-Q

K4LT 1150-79-181,700-M +K9NW,W8RZ
AA8U 1089-79-172,062-M +K8MJZ,N8NX,
ND5S,WX3M
W8AV 1032-79-162,898-M +AF8A

SSB

AC8E 765-79-120,870-B
K8MR 608-75- 91,200-B
KU8E 101-41- 8,282-B

KW8N 2003-79-316,474-M +K9NW,KF8TY
K8CC 1951-79-308,258-M +K9TM,KT8X,
N8KR,WD8S
WR8W
NT8V 651-78-101,556-M +AC8W,K8DD,
KB8WMW,N8CQA,

CQWW

SSB

K8MR 595 95 181 585,181
KA8PTT 300 59 154 171,039
K8MK 200 15 35 N8VW op.

AA8U 160 32 11 21 ops AA8U,
M/S 80 129 19 60 K8KS,K8MJZ,
40 132 25 78 N8NX,ND5S,
20 429 36 126 KF8QE,KT8X,
15 830 35 138 W8EB,W8MJ
10 227 29 112
tot: 1779 155 535 **3,316,140**

CW

K8MR 1030-109-283 1,170,512 13 hrs

K8CC 160 68 16 37 ops AC8W,
M/M 80 431 29 100 K8CC,K8DD,
40 1348 37 134 K8JM,K8MM,
20 1467 37 147 K9TM,N8CQA,
15 1356 36 128 W8MJ,WD8S
10 1065 34 128
tot: 5735 189 674 **14,048,777**

W8AV 160 98 21 53 ops K3JT,
M/M 80 385 26 96 K4LT,K8KM,
40 1134 37 125 K8RF,KU8E,
20 1380 37 145 N8DCJ,W8AV
15 1222 35 129 W8RZ,W8WTS
10 734 31 119

ARRL 160 METER

K8XXX 1349-97-268,593 @N8CC
+K8AQM,NU8Z,KG8CO,N8JF,
K8BK,K8JJC,K8KS
K8MK 1251-93-240,000 @WR8C
+KU8E,N8VW,K8ZD,WR8C
AA8U 1036-91-194,558
K8CC 1027-84-175,056 W8MJ op.
K9TM 400-59- 47,377
W8RU 279-48- 26,784 QRP
AC8E 170-50

ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

W8AV 1419-130-738,400 CW HP
KT8X 802-103-330,424 CW HP
K8MR 294-118-111,392 MIX HP 4 hrs
KA8PTT 160- 69- 22,080 SSB LP
K9TM 153- 60

The 22nd Annual K8MR Christmas Party and MRRC Meeting

The 22nd Annual K8MR Christmas Party and MRRC meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9, 1999 starting at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come join in on what is one of the highlights of the MRRC year.

K8MR is located on the east side of the Cleveland metropolitan area in Orange Village, OH. The best way to K8MR is via **I-271** which runs north/south on the east side of Cleveland. If you're coming from the south, Jim advises that since last year the construction of the I-480/I-271 interchange has been completed. There are now two exits from I-480 east to I-271 north, one for local and one for the express lanes. The exit is not very well marked. The local lanes is the second exit, exiting to the left. If you are getting off I-271 at Chagrin Blvd (where the motels are) you must take the local lanes exit. There is no exit to Chagrin Blvd. from the express lanes.

From I-271, there are two exit opportunities: If you're coming from the north, you can take the **Emery Road** exit and follow Emery east to **Lander Road** and turn north. (Note: northbound I-271 does not have an exit at Emery.) The next street is Jackson, and K8MR is on the northeast corner ahead and to your right.

From either the north or south, get off at the **Highway 422/87** exit (also called Beechwood or Moodmere). Take Highway 87 east until you come to a traffic circle. Follow the traffic circle to the right about one fourth of the way around and exit the circle on **Lander Road** heading south. Follow Lander to Jackson Road. K8MR is on the northeast corner to your left. The party generally runs until the participants go home.(11PM - ???). For



those coming from out-of-town, there are a number of motels right at the Highway 422/87 exit, such as TravelLodge, Holiday Inn, etc. which are within a short driving distance of the K8MR QTH.

There are a number of other amateur radio things to do before heading over to the K8MR's. Amateur Electronic Supply has a store in nearby Wickcyffe, and a number of MRRCers have made a

habit of stopping by Electronic Surplus downtown to peruse the available goodies. Former MRRC member Tom Lee, K8AZ and is only about a fifteen minute drive away and hosts an open house at his fine contest station with pizza and beverages at 4 PM prior to the activities at Jim's.

Hope to see everyone in Cleveland!

MRRC Challenge Results

By Dennis Ward, KT8X
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After many years of dedicated work, **Jim Stahl, K8MR** passed along the reigns of MRRC Challenge scorekeeper to me at Dayton. Many thanks to Jim for his explanations, files, and assistance. I was going to begin with the 1997-98 Challenge, whose season is ended with the fall '98 Sprints, when K8CC urged me to start by compiling the '96 - '97 MRRC Challenge results. With Dave's help, and the copy machines at the Michigan State Library, I was able to compile the necessary data.

First, it would be best to review the rules. The purpose is to reward those individuals who generate points for the club. To be eligible for the MRRC Challenge, one must only be a MRRC member (i.e., ARRL eligibility rules do not apply). Several members did operate contests, but points were not credited to MRRC so unfortunately, their hard work was not logged in the challenge.

Certain contests starting with CQWW SSB in October through the NCJ Sprints in September are applicable to the MRRC Challenge. Each entry receives a point value based on their score, pro-rated against the winning score for their category. The Challenge is broken into 3 categories as applicable to the particular contest rules: single-op, multi-single, and multi-multi.

The points breakdown are as follows (16850 maximum points possible):

2000 for CQWW and ARRL DX (each mode)
1000 for SS (each mode)
750 for CQ & ARRL 160, ARRL 10, WPX, & IARU HF
200 for NAQP and SPRINT (each mode)

An entry receives receives points equal to:

(their score ÷ winning score x contest maximum points)

Single-ops are credited for all points received by the entry. Currently, this includes guest ops (such as K9TM running SS @ K8CC), however should the host station owner receive points as well for their hard work in assembling the station and making it available?

Multi-operator entries are handled somewhat differently. The host of the multi-operator entry is credited with 50% of the points received by the entry. The other 50% is distributed evenly between the remaining operators who are MRRC members. Perhaps this ratio is biased too heavily toward the station host? A more equitable approach would be to divide the score between all the MRRC members present, with the station owner receiving an extra share for hosting the effort.

The score breakdowns are rather interesting, and only the final results are published for simplicity. However, it is worth noting that certain contests can really produce points and keep the competition fierce. The "Bang for the Buck" contest is without a doubt SS. W8's fair very well against the winners, and can achieve nearly the maximum point value - especially valuable for single ops. Although the 4 major DX contests have the potential for big points, it requires some effort. Also, operating every contest does add up, especially if certain contests are targeted for maximum point value. What's your strategy?

Results 1996-97 MRRC Challenge

K8CC	2624
AA8U	2587
W8MJ	2436
W8AV	1785
KW8N	1686
K9TM	1267
KU8E	1201
KG8CW	1136
NU8Z	1004
K8MR	954
K8RR	875
N8TR	838
K8DD	777
K4LT	714
K8MZ	632
AC8W	509
K8JZ	496
K8JM	495
NT8V	460
K8SIA	427
W8JJ	416
AC8E	383
W8FN	359
WA8RJF	326
K8MK	318
K8GL	300
K8LR	286
K8AQM	269
K8GT	229
WZ8P	206
W8RZ	205
K8KS	205
AF8A	205
KT8X	203
N8CQA	190
N8ET	169
W8WTS	135
VE3ZTH	135
N8CC	130
W8XI	105
N8HTT	78
N8KR	74
K8ND	54
W8RU	51
K8MFO	34

CLUB RESOURCES

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The *FLASH* is the official newsletter of the **Mad River Radio Club**, and is published six times per year in even-numbered months. Submissions of material for the *FLASH* are welcome, and may be sent to the editor at the address shown above.

The Mad River Radio Club is an ARRL-affiliated club of amateur radio contesting enthusiasts. The club area is centered on Findlay, OH, and serves the surrounding states. Membership in the MRRC is open to anyone. Dues are \$12 per year, payable to club treasurer **KE8OC**. Please make checks out to **Tim O'Sullivan**, not MRRC.

In addition to six in-person meetings per year, MRRC has an informal net every Monday evening at 8:30 PM Eastern time on 3825 KHz \pm QRM. Everyone is welcome to check in for the latest club news and information.

Also, come join in with other MRRC members on-line with the free **MRRC Internet Reflector**. To join, send an e-mail to **MRRC-REQUEST@contesting.com**. The body of the e-mail should say *subscribe mrrc yourcall*. You'll receive an e-mail confirmation in a few hours.

MRRC member badges can be ordered for \$10 through **Buck Switzer, N8CQA** at **n8cqa@tir.com**.



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