

# The FLASH

The Official Newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club

February - March 2000

Volume 29 Issue 4

<http://www.qsl.net/mrrc>

## From the 'Big Fish'

By Tim Mitchell, K9TM  
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### MRRC CALENDAR February - April 2000 All Dates in GMT

**NCJ NA SSB Sprint**  
*February 6, 2000*

**NCJ NA CW Sprint**  
*February 13, 2000*

**ARRL DX CW Contest**  
*February 19-20, 2000*

**CQ 160M SSB Contest**  
*February 25-27, 2000*

**ARRL DX SSB Contest**  
*March 4-5, 2000*

**CQ WPX SSB CONTEST**  
*March 25-26, 2000*

**K8CC Cabin Fever Escape Party**  
*April 8, 2000*

Well it is hard to believe but another contest season is winding down. However, the club did anything but wind down during the beginning of 2000. It is very impressive how active the club has become. We had all kinds of activity for the NAQP's with multiple teams sporting our name. We even managed all MRRC Sprint teams for both modes. Not to mention the fine efforts put forth in the various 160 contests, ARRL DX and WPX SSB.

Operating isn't all that we have been busy with either. There has also been a lot of planning and effort being put forth for MQP. We have all the counties covered by the mobiles and some commitments from fixed stations as well. Several members have been active beating the drum at local clubs and there has also been work to attract and maintain plaque sponsors. It is good to see more people getting involved and all the support.

Looking ahead over then next couple of months we have two meetings scheduled. One at K8CC and of course one at Dayton. There should be details elsewhere in this issue. Hope to see everyone at one or both of these meetings or on the Monday night net.

73 de Tim, K9TM

### DON'T FORGET!

With contest season just around the corner, we need YOUR contributions for the next MRRC Flash. Share your knowledge with your fellow contesters - start working NOW on an article!

Deadline for publication:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

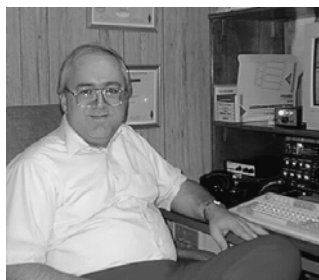
MRRC MEETING AT K8CC

APRIL 8, 2000

MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

## The Editor's Keyboard

By Dave Pruett, K8CC  
k8cc@mediaone.net



I have to echo the comments made by president **Tim, K9TM** in his editorial. The flurry of activity that our club has experienced since the first of the year is pretty amazing. Its not hard to put a finger on what started all of this. After a couple of members made some noise about scraping together a MRRC team for the January CW NAQP, suddenly we had enough entries for not one, but two teams for the SSB event. The momentum kept rolling and we put together teams for both the CW and SSB Sprints. ARRL DX CW saw the usual multi efforts from **K8CC** and **W8AV**, a MRRC contest-expedition by **AC8W/C6A**, and an unexpected Michigan single op battle between **K8GL**, **KT8X**, and **AA8U (WB8T op.)**. March saw Radio Free Ypsilanti (call letters K8CC) scoring well with the microphone in both ARRL DX and CQ WPX.

The observation I'd like to make from this is that much of this activity has come from stations who might not have gotten on if it weren't for the interest raised by forming club teams. Many of these stations were not able to operate full time, they were active and contributed to the club effort. This illustrates that you don't have to go all out to enjoy the contest.

Another operating opportunity is right around the corner: **The Michigan QSO Party** is scheduled for **April 15, 2000** from **noon to midnight local time**. A number of MRRC members have expended a lot of effort preparing for the event (see story elsewhere). Please turn out to support the Michigan MRRC contingent.

On a different topic, some of you may be aware that there have been discussions about MRRC merging with the North Coast Contesters (NCC). The idea was broached back in January at K8MR & K8AZ parties to see what the reaction might be. Feedback has been positive from both sides, but further plans are proceeding slowly to allow each organization to fully consider the idea. Stay tuned for further information.

Finally, I'd like to invite everyone to the 1st Annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape on April 8, 2000. A map and further information appears elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to make this an annual MRRC event to mark the end of winter, and to look forward to MQP. Hope to see everyone there!

## Why Contest??

By Gene Walsh, N2AA  
Via CQ-Contest@contesting.com

What else is there??

Back in 1956 or so, while becoming interested in DXing, I stumbled into a DX contest on 40M. There was lots of DX, and the folks seemed to be having a wonderful time. I have been a true addict ever since. It starts by hooking you in to the working of new countries, then you start measuring what you can do against other guys who do what they can with what they have, and then your soul is lost to it!

I discovered that contesters are really different! They strive to do the best they can with whatever they have. There are those who say that they want to develop friendships via ham radio and you cannot do that by exchanging reports; but friendships developed among contesters have more depth and understanding of common interests than any that come from random QSOing and general ham activities. There is no other activity in ham radio which fosters international friendship as a byproduct like contesting. This is not the reason that we do contests, but it's a pretty good side effect. You meet even a casual contester from anyplace in the world, and you immediately have an understanding regardless of politics or particulars.

I do it because it is more fun than nearly anything else. There is nothing like working through the morning openings on 20M having all the DX calling in as the grey line marches along, building up your multiplier total from almost every direction. I love 20M! I live for it! This is almost a religious experience. (You do need a good antenna to get in to this!)

I agree with KM3T that multi-op is the best experience one can have. I have been lucky enough to win the CQWW a couple of times (many years ago!) because I was in a good place during a good time and I was young enough to be able to stay the course and go to work the morning after. This was a great experience, but doesn't equal the emotional highs of the multi-multi efforts which I was involved with later. There is nothing to compare with being in a competitive multi-multi, whether you win or lose (its always better if you win!) Once at K2GL, when 20 was dead in the middle of the night, I leaned over to K3EST who was cranking away on 40M at the adjacent position, and asked him "Bob, do you ever get tired of doing this?" He said "This is a mystic experience, you do it whenever you can!" 'Nuff said.

Why contest??

If you are lucky enough to know about it, you can't not!!!

## The Road To BY4

By Dennis Ward, KT8X

Last summer I was assigned to a project at work which uses a manufacturing plant near Shanghai, China. At that time, I was informed that a trip to the plant might be possible some time after the first of the year. That same day I immediately began my preparations to go to BY.

OH2MCN's Internet web page provides a comprehensive listing of instructions to obtain operating permission in most countries. To operate in BY, I needed to provide an application letter, copy of my passport, copy of my U.S. license, passport photo and \$5. I sent my information to the CRSA (Chinese Radio Sports Association), and several weeks later I received a reply from Mr. Han Zhaofang, BG1HZF – Deputy Secretary-General, CRSA. After several email exchanges with Mr. Zhaofang, on January 4<sup>th</sup> my license arrived in the mail! Enclosed with the license, was a letter instructing me to contact Mr. Hu Song Qing, BA4HU, to operate the BY4AA club station while in Shanghai.

At this point, I decided I needed someone who spoke Chinese to help me. I called a co-worker, Brian Yang, in Shanghai and explained what I was trying to do. Brian attempted several telephone calls to BY4AA before success.

After returning home from a business trip to Japan, the trip to Shanghai was forming and it appeared to coincide with ARRL DX SSB. I decided to fax a letter to BY4AA explaining my desires to operate the contest, along with a copy of my letter from Beijing. I was fortunate to have my co-worker, Sunshine Chou, translate the letter into Chinese for me. However, yet another snag appeared, the fax machine never answered! So the

next step was the USPS. I hoped my letter would arrive before I left for Shanghai. Two weeks before I left for Shanghai, I received an email from Brian Yang that BA4HU had telephoned him. I could operate ARRL DX SSB at BY4AA!

With two weeks left before the trip, I began the preparatory work for the contest. I asked Brian if he could find out some information about the station. He confirmed that there was a PC at BY4AA, but the club suggested I bring my own if I had one. This proved to be very important later. Unfortunately, I could not obtain any other information on the station.

I notified the DX community of my trip via N4AA's QRZ DX Publication, as well as NG3K's announced operations web site. **Jim, K8MR**, suggested I record some of the contest as he had done from 9M6AAC. He loaned me his custom radio to recorder interface, and I bought a small micro cassette recorder from Radio Shack (on sale for \$40!). I decided to bring along my Heil Proset and PTT foot switch, and at the last minute, **Dave, K8CC** came to the rescue, loaning me Heil adapters for Kenwood, Yaesu, and Icom. A test run at the home QTH proved everything was working together. I was ready for BY!

Flying to China, and any destination in Asia, from the Midwest can be tiring, and this trip was no exception. I arrived in Shanghai late on Wednesday night March 1<sup>st</sup>. A quick shower, a couple 807s and a meeting with another team member and I was ready for bed.

Thursday proved to be such a hectic day, my hosts at the plant only remembered to telephone BY4AA on the way back to the hotel! With the contest only 24 hours away, we arrived at work in the next morning and called BA4HU. Mr. Song Qing gave us directions to BY4AA and agreed to meet us at 8:00 PM that

evening.

We arrived back at the hotel, changed and hopped in a cab for the journey across town. Three of my co-workers were kind enough to accompany me on the trip which helped with language translation. Unfortunately, Brian, who had made all the phone calls for me, had to work overtime, so another coworker Jenny Yao became my local interface to BY4AA.

When we arrived at the address for BY4AA, I couldn't read the street numbers, but immediately recognized a tribander on a roof tower. Mr. Song Qing was there to greet us at the front gate. BY4AA is located at the Shanghai Military Physical Club. Mr. Song Qing was a very gracious host and showed us several rooms used to display QSLs and provide meeting venues. When we arrived at the shack, we found a long table filled with a variety of equipment. On the wall is a banner which proudly displays BY4AA's 1999 SSTV Contest Championship.

As I began to ask questions about the station, I was disappointed to learn that 10 and 20 meters had VSWR problems, and there were problems with the amplifiers. Mr. Song Qing felt very bad, because my friends had told him about my excitement to operate the contest, now less than 12 hours away. Mr. Song Qing asked if I felt antennas or amplifiers were more important. I immediately responded "antennas" so he suggested an alternate club station which had a newer radio and an operational tribander located on the other side of Shanghai. He asked us to wait while he telephoned the other club to see if I could go over there and operate. He returned with good news - I could go over to the other club tonight and make operating arrangements there.

We then finished our tour of BY4AA, and were told there are 100 amateur

*(Continued on page 4)*

## The Road to BY4

(Continued from page 3)



**The BY4BNS Tribander**

(personal and club) stations in Shanghai. With a population of 18 million, that's a small percentage. We then left the station thanking Mr. Song Qing and grabbed a taxi for the trip across town.

After another 20-minute taxi ride to the area of the club, we paid the driver and started walking down the street. As before, my colleagues were looking for street numbers and I was looking for antennas. Just as I recognized the 7 element tribander on the roof, Mr. Bony Dai, BA4EE approached me and introduced himself. He knew I was a ham because I was the only person on the street looking upward and not forward! Bony then took us inside and brought us up to the BY4BNS club station. I was delighted to find a Kenwood TS-950, FT-100 and new rotator control at the operating position. Bony explained that BY4BNS was QRV on 10, 15, 20, and 40 using the tribander, which had a 40 meter rotatable dipole option, and 10-80 with a small Ground Plane also located on the roof. There was no amplifier, but otherwise I was

thrilled. We discussed callsigns, and I was instructed per my Chinese operating license, to sign KT8X/BY4BNS.

Bony explained to us that BY4BNS is located at an activity center/music school. There are many children in attendance on weeknights and weekends who learn dancing and music. (Many were surprised to see foreigners there on a Friday night). Bony himself was a student at the school and when the prior manager of BY4BNS retired, he decided to accept a teaching position at the school and become the station manager. The school, along with others like it in China, may be visited on the web at <http://www.aseline.net>. Bony lives only two minutes away where he also maintains a personal station. He has the enviable position to be able to operate practically anytime of the day or night. We made arrangements to meet 1 hour before the contest, Saturday morning at 7 AM. I returned to the hotel, and notified the Mad River members via our email reflector, and NG3K. This half-hour session cost as much as one month's ISP service at home!

The next morning I was up at 4:30 AM still suffering from jet lag. I

took the time to double check my laptop. After breakfast and a 15-minute taxi ride, I met Bony who was already waiting for me. We went up to the club and after unpacking my equipment, I was QRV by 7:30 am.

I scanned the bands and heard zero activity on 10, but finding some activity on 15 I decided to begin the contest there. After calling CQ and only running a 60 per hour rate, I figured that I wasn't getting spotted on the DX Cluster yet and/or I didn't have such a great signal into the US. I did some search and pounce. K9NS and N6RO both asked me to QSY to 10 meters and I worked them a short time later. 10 had lots of activity, but for whatever reason I just couldn't run. As I called stations, they were caught off guard by the long call sign, and many were not sure what country I was in. I had a VE6 who refused to work me and a W4 who insisted I was signing my call incorrect. As 10 began to close, I went to 15 and finally managed a decent run. I maximized the last 10 on the rate display to 225 at 0256Z. It was also a lot of fun working my friends' back home in Michigan and Ohio. Conditions began to dry up around 0430Z and



**Dennis, KT8X in action at BY4BNS**

## The Road to BY4

(Continued from page 4)

my run had dwindled to 60 per hour again. I scanned the band, but I had worked every station that could hear me. I QSYd to 20, and only heard the biggest East Coast stations CQ'ing. They were running S7 or so, and I assumed listening for Europe as no one heard my call. A little after 0500 Z, W3LPL did manage to hear me, but no one else yet. I took an hour break, and Bony gave me a tour of the antennas on the rooftop.

The most interesting part of the antenna system was the home brew tower. The tower is approximately 10 meters or so tall, and was hand made from stainless steel tubing, appearing to be about 1½ to 2 inches in diameter. It was made extremely well, with beautiful welds, a true work of art. Even though BY4BNS is in downtown Shanghai, with numerous tall buildings, the path to North America is a clean shot, with the Shanghai TV Tower and Hilton High Rise in the distance. The 10–80 ground plane is mounted approximately 8 feet above the roof.

While on the roof, Bony told me that all the Shanghai amateurs meet once per year. This year the group met in



**The BY4BNS 80-10 vertical and VHF yagi above the skyline of Shanghai**

Shanghai at BY4BNS. The group is getting so large now, the meeting required the use of the school's auditorium! I couldn't imagine all the hams in a major metropolitan area meeting like this.

Around 06Z it was time to check conditions. The East Coast Signals had improved, and a few others were in there as well. I began to S&P again and ended up doing so for the next 6 hours. I stayed on 20 until about 0930 Z and checked out 40. I had forgotten from my HL9JZ days 11 years ago what a mess 40 is in Asia. I was able to work a few stations and pick up some multipliers, but the QSO's were difficult for the US stations. The farthest station I heard was KØDU in Colorado. I took a few passes on 80, but unfortunately, I couldn't hear any US stations. It was getting late, and I was still suffering from jet lag, so I called it a day.

I was to go sight-seeing the next day with my coworkers. I hoped to get in a few hours in the contest and made arrangements to meet Bony at 6 AM for the 10-meter opening. However, when I awoke early in the morning, I found out that we were leaving at 7 AM. While this didn't fit into my plans at all, I chose sight-seeing - after all, how many times does one get to visit China from Michigan? I contacted Bony at 6:30 AM with the disappointing news. I had hoped to end the contest, but learned Bony had to leave town Monday morning. So all of a sudden, my ARRL DX SSB contest effort from BY had ended.

Bony Dai has extended an open invitation for any ham to come and visit BY4BNS. If there's enough advanced notice a license can be obtained and the station is available for operation. Bony can be contacted via email at: [ba4ee@online.sh.cn](mailto:ba4ee@online.sh.cn). MRRC members are donating a Heil Proset, Heil-Kenwood adapter cable, and PTT foot switch to further enhance contesting efforts from BY4BNS.

The upcoming week was very busy, which prevented another meeting with Bony in person. On Friday, I was off to BV for a visit with my colleague's family in Tainan. We arrived in Kaohsiung, and were greeted by my colleague's brother, who drove us to Tainan. The traffic was much more orderly than Shanghai, but chaotic by North American standards. After visits with family and friends, there wasn't much time to check on amateur radio. The week's long work hours led to an early bedtime!

Saturday morning I learned that another family member was a ham. Although inactive, my colleague's other brother Ying-Shou was licensed as BV6CF. He has been QRT for nearly 10 years, but still has a Yaesu FT-870 HF rig and Kenwood Multi-Mode UHF/VHF rig. Ying-Shou had put a simple wire antenna up for me to listen on the HF bands. Due to the poor antenna, and the ltime of the morning, there wasn't much activity to hear, but I did copy one station from the USA working a JA on 15 meters.

Prior to my trip, I attempted an email to the CTARL (Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League) about a license but received no replies. The OH web site carried a note from BV5AF, offering to help foreigners obtain a license in Taiwan. He quickly responded to my e-mail and asked me to fax my linformation to him. He instructed me to contact BV200 in Taipei when I arrived in Taiwan. I sent the necessary information after receiving my China visa but BV5AF never replied. When we called BV200, he explained an application form is required which normally takes 2 weeks! An important lesson here, find a go between to act as an interpreter up front to avoid confusion.

Needless to say, KT8X never lit up the bands from BV. However, my visit to the Chou home may have

## MRRC Scores

Collected by Jim Stahl, K8MR  
jimk8mr@aol.com

### NCJ FEBRUARY SPRINTS

#### CW

	K9NW	KU8E	W8AV	K8CC	N8EA
20	92	83	82	87	102
40	117	105	109	120	109
80	102	83	93	82	62
Tot	311	276	284	289	273
Mul	50	51	51	49	45
Score	15,550	14,076	14,484	14,161	13,104

	K8JM	W8MJ	K8MR	K9TM
20	71	51	44	
40	100	113	46	
80	63	56	76	
Tot	234	220	166	150
Mult	50	50	48	40
Score	11,700	11,000	7,968	6,000

#### SSB

	KW8N	KU8E	K9TM	ND8DX	W8MJ
20	143	91	100	68	70
40	152	130	134	100	115
80	80	80	66	74	50
Tot	375	301	300	242	235
Mul	57	52	51	52	44

N8EA	230-42-	9,960
K8CC	84-32	
K8GT	70-33	2,310
K8AQM	51-26	1,326 QRP

### ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

	TOT	CW	SSB	MULS	SCORE
KU8E	724	118	583	119	962,694 LP
W8AV	1675			142	951,968
ND8DX	1144			144	329,472 LP
W8MJ	596			100	238,400 LP
K8GT	271	84	131	53	184,950 LP
K9TM	206	61	113	44	110,250 LP
W8RU	278	92			102,000 LP
KC8FXR	165	57	61	29	67,940 LP

### CQ 160 Meter Contest

#### CW

N8EA	581-91-	170,898
K8ND	555-73-	126,741
W8MJ	424-69-	77,142
W8RU	449-60-	62,820
ND8DX	231-55-	30,965
K8GL	193-54-	26,190
K8CC	150-44-	14,872
KE8OC	100-32-	6,976

K8XXX (K8AEM, K8AQM, K8BK, K8JM, KG8CO, N8CC, NU8Z)	1080-104-	346,632
KU8E (+K9NW, W4EF, N8VW)	621-	80-126,720

#### SSB

ND8DX	793-67-	121,136
K5ZG		443
N8EA		324-62
N8KR	194-39-	16,887
K8KS (+K8AA, K8AEM, KG8CO, W8TTH, K8BK, N8CC)		

### ARRL DX Contest

#### CW

	K8GL	AA8U	K8MR
160	18	16	6
80	108	52	90
40	378	77	360
20	605	89	510
15	622	88	684
10	804	94	696
Tot	2529	416	2346
Score	3,156,192	2,160,666	816,480

	N8KR (LP)	K8SIA (LP)	KC8FXR (LP)
160	10	10	2
80	15	14	13
40	69	44	53
20	87	57	81
15	144	66	118
10	293	80	123
Tot	618	271	390
Score	502,434	235,170	102,600

	K8CC (M/M)	W8AV (M/2)	AC8W/C6A (M/S)
160	27	21	30
80	170	68	133
40	934	100	774
20	1694	122	1164
15	1839	113	1313
10	1524	101	1332
Tot	6188	525	4745
Score	9,746,100	6,847,035	3,944,601

ND8DX 302-73-6,138 15M LP

Ops:

K8CC +K8GT, K8JM, K9TM, KT8X, N8CQA, N8VW, W8MJ, WD8S

W8AV +K4LT, AF8A, K8KM, KI8IZ, KU8E, W8RZ, AC8W/C6A AC8W, K8DD

#### SSB

KU8E	1354-108-	438,696	10M
ND8DX	1026-118-	361,434	15M
K8MR	351-159-	167,427	LP
KA8PTT	254-129-	98,298	LP
AA8U	159-	85-	40,545 Mobile!
KT8X/BY4BNS	348-101-	105,444	

K8CC M/S +KE8OC, W8MJ, WD8S

160	18	13
80	47	34
40	158	68
20	576	102
15	871	120
10	1466	120
Tot	3136	457
= 4,299,456		

## MRRRC Prepares For WRTC-2000

*Editor's Note: Most of you are aware that we selected **Tim Mitchell, K9TM** to captain the MRRRC team at WRTC-2000. Tim has selected **Steve London, N2IC** of Denver, CO to be his teammate. I asked Tim to give the club an update on their preparations for the event.*

A few quick notes about WRTC. Steve and I have been busy planning various portions of the trip. We both have our airfare worked out and ticketed. We have been busy trying to figure out what radios to take and more importantly how to get them there. This is a lot bigger deal than trying to figure out how to get a radio to California (as in 1996). At least we don't have to worry about getting amplifiers or antennas over there!

Steve is going to visit my QTH for WPX CW in May. This will be for the first multi-op ever from the K9TM QTH, and we are going to use this as an opportunity to test various equipment ideas and such for WRTC. Also, it is a chance for us to get to know each other and our operating patterns better. We have been in contact by email and of course the telephone.

For those who don't know, the WRTC has different rules than IARU. This was cause for all kinds of discussions on the WRTC reflectors. You guys were spared most of this as there are two other reflectors (one for USA teams, one for all teams) for these discussions. Things have calmed down now. All the competitors are in the same boat so it should be interesting to see what happens.

Some key things for those who want some idea of what WRTC's rules are: no computer control of radios, one computer for logging (no networked computers), two radios are allowed... however one must be designated as receive only and must remain as such unless the other radio breaks, two antennas are provided - a tribander and a windom at approximately 30 feet - with 2 feedlines... we must use PL259 and no coax switches are allowed... must screw/unscrew connectors, 100 watts output, no supercheck, no bandmap, no packet, and more. For more information follow the link to the WRTC 2000 website from the MRRRC web page.

The scoring is also different from past WRTCs. A maximum of 300 points are awarded for each of the following 4 phases: pileup tapes, most CW QSO's, most SSB QSO's and most multipliers. A team's points for each phase are based on a ratio of their total versus the maximum achieved (by any team) in that phase.

Hopefully this gives you some idea of what team MRRRC is doing for WRTC 2000.

**73 de Tim, K9TM**

## Michigan QSO Party 2000

The 2000 Michigan QSO Party will be held April 15, 2000 from noon to midnight local time. Abbreviated rules are listed on the next page, while full rules can be found on the MRRRC web site at <http://www.qsl.net/mrrc>.

This will be the second year that MRRRC has sponsored the MQP and this year saw a lot of additional preparation for the event that we did not have in 1999:

- Contest announcements went to QST and CQ magazines, and the WA7BNM and QTH.COM on-line contest calendars.
- A MQP information packet with rules and forms is now available on the MRRRC web site.
- A QSO-party only demo version of K8CC's NA contest program is available both from the MRRRC and DATOM web sites.
- Several MRRRC members have visited major Michigan clubs to present MQP and to encourage activity.

These preparations, along with the successful 1999 MQP and OQP events should serve to raise the activity level in 1999.

Also, MRRRC is organizing an effort to activate all 83 MI counties with five mobile stations. The mobile teams and counties to be activated are (tentative order):

**A88U (+WB8T) UP** - Schoolcraft, Alger, Marquette, Baraga, Houghton, Keewenaw, Ontonagon, Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson, Menominee, Delta

**K8CC (+W8MJ) NW LP** - Luce, Chippewa, Mackinac, Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Grand Traverse, Leelenau, Benzie, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola, Lake, Mason, Oceana, Muskegon, Newaygo, Mecosta

**K8XXX (K8AA, K8AQM, KG8CO & NU8Z) SW LP** - Jackson, Calhoun, Eaton, Ionia, Montcalm, Kent, Ottawa, Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee

**K9TM (+KU8E) NE LP** - Bay, Arenac, Ogemaw, Iosco, Alcona, Oscoda, Montmorency, Alpena, Presque Isle, Cheboygan, Otsego, Crawford, Roscommon, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, Gladwin

**W8RU (+K8MR) SE LP** - Monroe, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron, Tuscola, Lapeer, Genesee, Saginaw, Gratiot, Clinton, Shiawassee, Ingham, Livingston, Washtenaw

A number of MRRRC members plan full efforts from home stations as well, but we need all MI members to get on. Its great fun and you can be the focus of attention! Please get on and support MRRRC and the MQP.

# Michigan QSO Party

## Sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club

**Abbreviated Rules**  
For full rules see <http://www.qsl.net/mrrc>

**Contest Period:** 1200 EDST to 2400 EDST on Saturday, April 15, 2000. Stations may operate the full 12 hours.

**Frequency Bands and Modes:** CW and SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. A station may be worked once per band and mode. Suggested Frequencies: CW – 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045 and 28.045. SSB – 3.850, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300 and 28.450. Look for 28 MHz activity during the even-numbered daylight hours, and 21 MHz activity during the odd-numbered daylight hours. Look for SSB activity on the hour and CW on the half hour.

**Entry Categories:** Single operator, which are categorized as QRP (< 5W), low power (< 100W) or high power (> 100W). Multi-operator (multiple transmitters allowed). Mobile, limited to 100W or less.

**Contest Exchange:** Sequential serial number beginning with 001 and county (MI stations) or state/province (non-MI stations). Stations outside of W/VE send serial number and "DX". Mobile stations begin with 001 for each county activated. No station may claim simultaneous operation in more than one county, state, or province.

### **Scoring:**

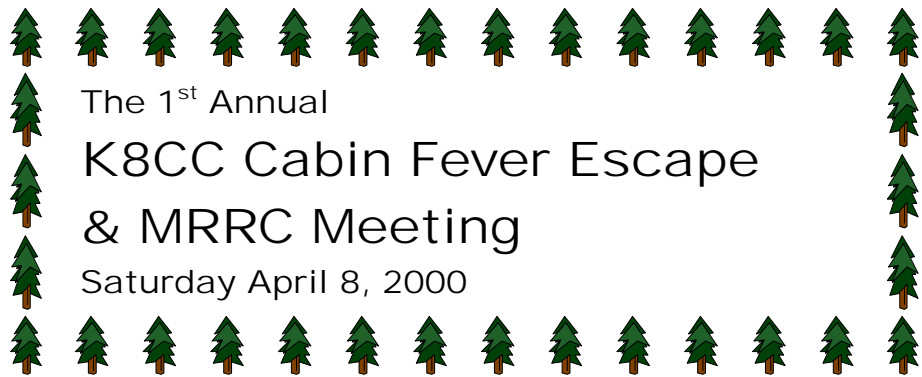
- One QSO point per SSB contact and two QSO points per CW contact.
- Multipliers are counted once per mode. Working the same multiplier on both CW and SSB counts as two multipliers. For Michigan stations, multipliers are 49 American states (excluding Michigan), 83 Michigan counties and 14 Canadian provinces (NF, LB, NB, NS, PEI, QC, ON, MB, SK, AB, BC, NWT, YT, NU). DX stations may be worked for point credit only.
- Final score for non-mobile stations is QSO points multiplied by the total number of multipliers. Final score for mobile stations is total QSO points for all counties activated multiplied by the total number of unique multipliers worked from all counties activated.

**Club Competition:** Scores attributed to any Michigan amateur radio club will be credited towards that club. The name of the entrant's Michigan club must be included on the summary sheet. All Michigan clubs with a credited score will be included in an overall ranking of those scores with a plaque awarded to the club with the highest score.

**Logging Software:** MQP is supported by both the NA and TRLog contest logging programs. A free demo version of K8CC's NA Contest Logging Program is available from the MRRC web site at <http://www.qsl.net/mrrc>.

### **Submitting Entries:**

- Sample log, summary, and multiplier check forms are included in this package. Other forms may be used, but must include all information contained in the sample forms. Entries are encouraged to use the official MQP county abbreviation for logging the received exchange from Michigan stations.
- Entries submitted in computer-readable format must include an ASCII summary sheet file (no word processor documents) and the log file which can be either an ASCII file such as the Cabrillo format, or in the native file formats for NA (.QDF) or TRLog (LOG.DAT). Diskettes must be IBM compatible, MS-DOS formatted 3½ inch format.
- Send paper logs or diskettes to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.
- Electronic entries may be submitted via e-mail to [MQP@contesting.com](mailto:MQP@contesting.com).
- All entries (hardcopy or electronic) must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the end of the contest.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
**K8CC Cabin Fever Escape**  
 & MRRC Meeting  
 Saturday April 8, 2000

If you're not coming from the metro area, the best route is to take **US-23** to Ann Arbor and get off at **Geddes Road** (exit 39). Head east on Geddes and follow it for about five miles. You'll encounter a four-way traffic light at **Prospect Road** that will indicate you're on track. Another mile past Prospect, turn left (north) on **Harris Road** and K8CC will be about 1½ miles down on the left.

Several of the MRRC mobiles plan to have their setups on hand for inspection. The K8CC station and antenna farm will be open for touring as well.

Plans are for the party to run through the afternoon, or until all of the participants go home. Out-of-townners are welcome to spend the night at K8CC, or there are several motels of the national chains at the I-275/Ford exit.

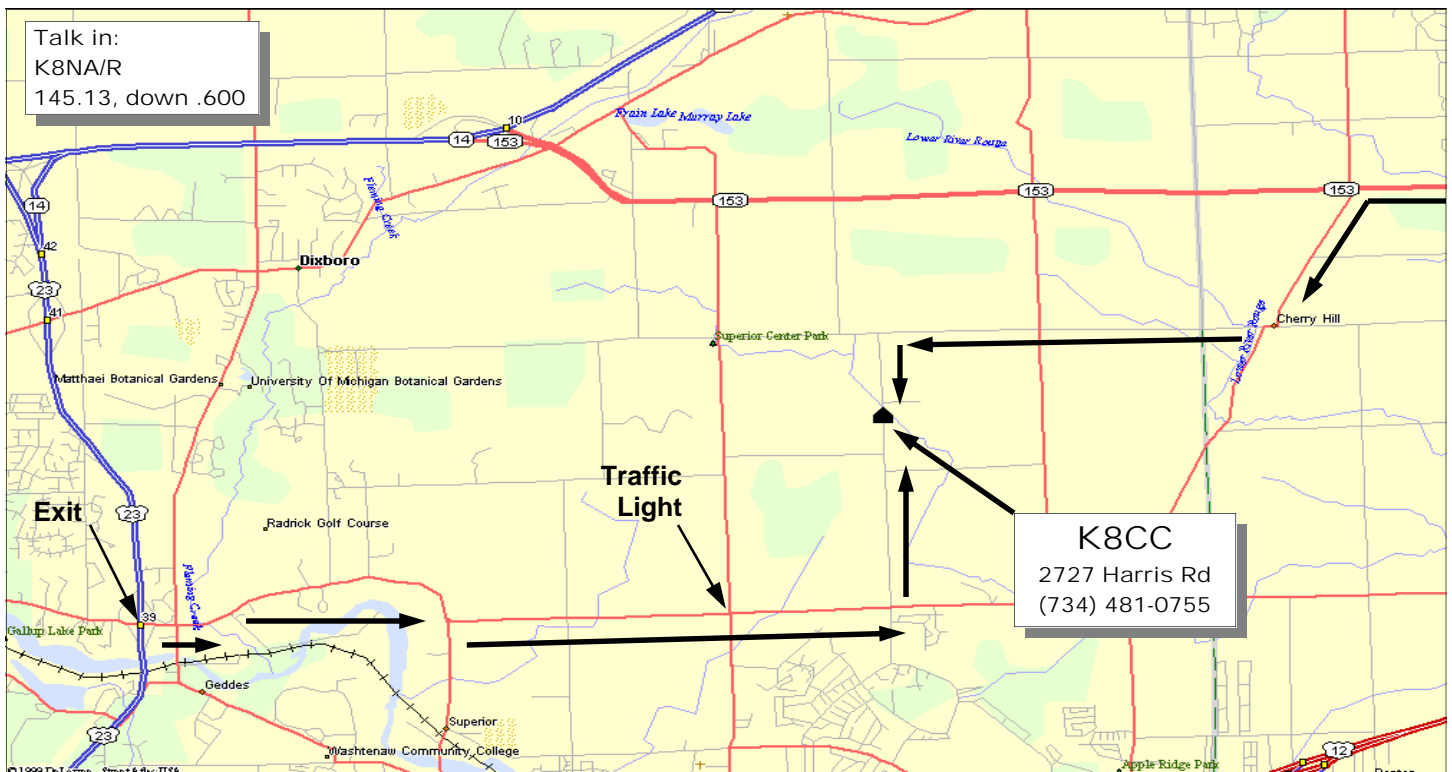
Lunch will be provided (subs, munchies & pop) but if your XYL is particularly skilled at a particular party dish, carry-ins are welcome.

OK, so its been a long winter. WPX SSB is but a distant memory, there's not another major contest for two months and you've already counted (and re-counted) the QSLs on your shack wall. It's six more weeks until Dayton and you're looking for something to do - come on out for the **1st annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape and MRRC Meeting on Saturday, April 8, 2000 starting at 12:00 noon.**

club's attention on MQP and also to talk about Dayton.

K8CC is located west of Detroit, and northeast of the city of Ann Arbor. The best way to K8CC from Detroit and its suburbs is via **I-275** which runs north/south around the west side of Detroit metropolitan area. From I-275, exit off at **Ford Road** (exit 25, also called M-153). Take Ford west for 4½ miles to **Ridge Road** - turn left (south). Proceed for one mile to **Cherry Hill Road** - turn right (west). Proceed for 2½ miles to **Harris Road**. Turn left (south - the only way possible) and K8CC is ½ mile down on the right

Everyone is invited to come to the meeting, which we hope will become a standing tradition on the MRRC schedule. The date is also one week before the Michigan QSO Party, specially selected to help focus the



## CLUB RESOURCES PAGE

## MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

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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.

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 postal or e-mail addresses shown above. The *FLASH* may be reprinted in whole or in part, provided proper credit is given.

**CLUB DUES** are \$12 per year, payable May 1st with a grace period thru July 31st. Members of the same family living at the same address may elect to receive a single copy of the *FLASH* for one set of dues. Full time students are eligible for dues at half of the regular rate. Dues are paid to the club treasurer KE8OC at the address shown above. Please make checks out to **Tim O'Sullivan**, not MRRC.

The **CLUB ROSTER** appears in the October/November issue of the *FLASH* every year..

**MRRC NET** Monday evenings at 8:30 PM Eastern time on 3825 KHz ± QRM.

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.

The **MRRC Web Page** with club information, pictures, etc. is at <http://www.qsl.net/mrrc>.

**CONTEST SCORES** are sent to the club scorekeeper Jim Stahl, K8MR at the postal or e-mail addresses shown above.

**MRRC MEMBER BADGES** can be ordered for \$10 through Buck Switzer, N8CQA at [n8cqa@tir.com](mailto:n8cqa@tir.com).



**MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB**  
**Dave Pruett, K8CC**  
**2727 Harris Road**  
**Ypsilanti, MI 48198 USA**