

The FLASH

The Official Newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club

June - July 2000

Volume 30 Issue 1

From the 'Big Fish'

By Dave Pruett, K8CC
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MRRRC Web Site
<http://www.qsl.net/mrrrc>

MRRRC E-Mail Reflector
mrrc@contesting.com

MRRRC CALENDAR

June - July 2000
All Dates in GMT

ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June 10-11, 2000

ARRL Field Day
June 24-25, 2000

IARU HF Championship
July 8-9, 2000

W8AV "Break From Antenna Work" Bash
July 29, 2000

Greetings from the new MRRRC 'Big Fish'! These are exciting times for the club, and I consider it a privilege to be 'at the tiller'. This is actually my third tour as 'Fish' - the first was in 1982 at the same meeting in which I joined MRRRC for the first time. (This shows what can happen when you're unaware of the 'MRRRC railroad'.) The second was in 1990, in the immediate aftermath of the MRRRC-NCC separation. As we continue to explore a possibilities for a closer relationship with the NCC, I hope that my 'history' with both sides will prove to be valuable. These are the reasons I volunteered to be 'Fish' again.

The MRRRC meeting at Dayton 2000 resulted in some of the most wide-ranges changes in club leadership in our history. If you check out the Club Resources Page near the back of the newsletter, you'll find that only **Jim, K8MR** (as scorekeeper) has the same job as a month ago. Only the president and treasurer are elected by the membership - the rest are appointees, or perhaps 'volunteers' is a better term. Three of these positions are new, which I'd like to explain, along with the 'traditional' positions.

At Dayton, **Buck, N8CQA** accepted election to the job of MRRRC treasurer. Buck has held similar positions within the SEMDXA and other clubs, and has some ideas how to improve how we manage the business side of the club. Since I was elected president, we needed a new **FLASH** editor, so **Jeff, KU8E** was appointed to that position. With Jeff's new role, **Pat, N8VW** accepted responsibility for the MRRRC Internet Web Site. **Dennis, KT8X** continues as coordinator for the 'MRRRC Championship', while we've formalized the role for **Goose, W8AV** as the club awards coordinator who interfaces with the contest organizers for the plaques we sponsor.

There are a couple of 'less official', but nonetheless crucial club positions where members have stepped up to fill a need. **Mike, WD8S** has become the club's awards manager for the MQP, and also prints the OQP certificate blanks for OQP. Everyone who has seen either an MQP or OQP certificate appreciates the fine job Mike has done. In a new development, **Hank, K8DD** and **Stan, AC8W** have agreed to arrange

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DON'T FORGET!

We need YOUR contributions for the next MRRRC Flash. Share your knowledge with your fellow contesters - start working NOW on an article!

Deadline for publication:

The Editor's Keyboard

By Jeff Clarke, KU8E
ku8e1@yahoo.com



Greetings to everyone from your new *FLASH* editor ! As everyone who was at Dayton knows, the former editor **Dave Pruett, K8CC** is our new "Big Fish". This is the third time around for Dave after last holding that position over 10 years ago. Thanks Dave for your service as the *FLASH* editor for the last several years and good luck as the new "Big Fish" ! We also have a new treasurer, Buck Switzer , **N8COA** . Buck takes over for Tim O' Sullivan, **KE8OC**, who like Dave has held this position for many years. A big thanks also goes out to Tim for the many year's of work he put into the treasurer's position.

With my new responsibilities as the editor of the *FLASH*, I needed help with one of my other tasks. **Pat Collins, N8VW** has stepped forward and agreed to take over the MRRRC web page. I'm sure Pat can approve on the design and content of the page since he is well versed in how the internet works. Pat has also suggested that we get our own domain name which will cost around \$60 . If you have any ideas or input for the web page Pat can be reached at pcollins.80@osu.edu.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2nd running of the MRRRC sponsored **Ohio QSO Party** on **Saturday August 26th** . Check out the rules at <http://www.qsl.net/mrrc/oqp.html> . There are some rule changes and we have a new plaque sponsored by the **Penn-Ohio DX Assn.** I'm sure many of the guys who went roving again this year. So, make sure you get on and work them or hop in you car with your HF mobile rig and put a few counties on yourself. We also need a sponsor for the plaque formerly sponsored by the Buckeye Belles. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in sponsoring this plaque please contact **KU8E** .

Until next time

73, de **Jeff, KU8E**



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for a new round of MRRRC clothing such as jackets, hats, T-shirts, etc. Its been a number of years since the last batch of MRRRC paraphernalia (none of mine fit anymore!) and a number of new members have arrived since then, so this should be a popular project.

I find it encouraging that so many people have stepped up to fill roles within MRRRC. When a few people try to do everything, stuff gets overlooked and our goals are sometimes not met. With more people involved, more is contributed yet the burden is easier and more projects are undertaken. Nobody wants to be a part of a radio club that does nothing. The way I see it, MRRRC has a lot going on!

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the outgoing MRRRC officers. **Tim, K9TM** accepted the role of president at my urging, and proved to be the right person for the job over the past year. Outgoing treasurer **Tim, KE8OC** held the position for seven years, and was the *FLASH* editor before that, so he deserves 'temporary retirement' from club responsibilities. We thank both for their leadership and service to the club.

There's a lot going on in the MRRRC world over the next six weeks. ARRL Field Day is this coming weekend, and plans are still going together for another K8MAD operation from the Case Western Reserve University site on the east side of Cleveland. A couple weeks later is the IARU HF Championship contest, with the parallel running of the 2000 World Radiosport Team Championship. **Tim, K9TM** and **Steve, N2IC** will be carrying the MRRRC colors into the WRTC battle and we wish them the best of luck. All MRRCCers should try to get on during IARU and work every S5 you hear with three numeric digits in their call - you never know, it might be Tim and Steve!

The next MRRRC club meeting will be at the W8AV QTH. See details elsewhere in this *FLASH*. This is the resurrections of a former MRRRC meeting time and place to better serve the east side of the MRRRC area. We appreciate Goose's willingness to hold this meeting at his QTH. There is at least one, possibly two, Michigan contingents planning to make the trip.

MRRCCer **Bill, N8ET**, who is also involved with the Findlay ARC, has offered to assist MRRRC in setting up a booth at the Findlay Hamfest. Since the hamfest weekend is also the ARRL September VHF QSO Party, it was suggested that we set up a bona-fide VHF contest station at the booth. Bill has access to some portable towers, so MRRRC VHFers put on your thinking caps and let's figure out how to put these to good use!

Don't forget: Field Day, IARU HF (work those S###s!) and the W8AV meeting. I hope to see everyone there at

Tornado hits K9TM QTH

By Tim Mitchell K9TM

On Tuesday evening , May 9th, we were hit with very severe storms. Toledo Edison and others report that my QTH was in the path of a tornado. It is easy to believe as trees were sheared off around the 10-15 feet height. Many trees were uprooted and power lines were ripped down. I had the neighbors tree on my house and the driveway was blocked. There was damage to the garage door, roof (which busted a sheathing joint ,water leaks in now) and on the back of the roof. It crushed part of the ridge vent and the deck. It stripped many shingles and tar paper off the front half of the roof.

For about 2 houses on either side of me and for about 6 blocks there is a very distinct path of trees down, etc. One of my neighbors has part of a chimney in their yard and we can't figure out where it came from? Many neighbors are missing garbage cans and one is missing a big trampoline. We have looked around for several blocks and can't find it.

I joked before that with the big Trylon tower and the beefed up Cushcraft 40 that trees would be down and roofs would be off before this stuff would fail. It appears the engineering specs from Trylon and from Leason's book are accurate. However, there are three visible bends in the tower. One of the XA driven elements is dangling by the strap that connects the driven elements together (the boom-element). The beefed up Cushcraft 40 held up but the elements are bent pretty good. The mast is bent at about a 30-40 degree angle (2 inch diameter .25 inch wall) just above the thrust bearing and before the XA.

Several of my neighbors commented that they could not believe the tower was still up and trees around it were sheared off or uprooted. The mast was believed to be the weakest item in the system and that proved out in this uncontrolled experiment. The mast has taken 70-80 mph winds and no problems, however this was unlike anything I have ever experienced. Obviously 8 yards of concrete hold better than the roots on trees!

My TV mast was bent over and the TV antenna had elements twisted up in spirals. Iron poles that held the bird feeders were bent over almost down to the ground. The bird feeders are missing or one was embedded in the chain link fence...along with numerous shingles and other things.

A few days after the storm I was able to get a crane to come in and remove the antennas from the tower. We were on generator power for a couple of days as a result of the storm. Staci, the dog and I are all OK. They were in the basement and I was upstairs headed for the basement when it hit. Next time I hear the tornado

MRRC Profiles

By Goose Steingass, W8AV
kt8x@prodigy.net

Author's Note: This column is being introduced to help us get more acquainted with some of our newer club members and to eventually profile some of our long-time members. I will eventually be calling on each of you provide some information about yourself for this column.)

Paul Valentine, Jr., KC8FXR is one of the newer members to MRRC having joined the club a little over a year ago. Paul is 50 years old, married, and lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan (*not far from the K8CC antenna farm - ed*).

Paul states that he has been a ham for three years "this time." He was introduced to ham radio by his father Paul, Sr. K8OVV-SK and was first licensed as a Novice in 1969 with the call sign of WN8ICF. Those were the days of the two year nonrenewable Novice license which permitted CW only operation using crystal controlled radios. Paul worked a "little CW" with that license and let it expire. He was re-licensed as a Novice with the same call in 1977. He let this license also expire without upgrading, got married, and ignored the hobby for twenty years.

When Paul's sister decided to try for her ham ticket, her husband Larry, WN8NXI began urging Paul to get back into the hobby. With all this family incentive, Paul earned his Tech-Plus license and upgraded to General a few months later. Florence also successfully earned her ticket and now holds an extra class license with their father's call.

Paul ham radio interest includes building simple radios. After a few mistakes in some of his projects, Paul got some help from MRRCer **Bill, N8ET** and reports that everything that he has recently constructed works. He plans on building a Tuna Tin 2 in the near future.

Paul's favorite contests are WPX and IARU. He likes WPX because there is a lot of activity and he can work anyone. He has some sentimental feelings for IARU because it was his first contest. Paul says, "I stumbled into it and made about 25 contacts. I typed up the list of stations that I worked and kept it like a trophy!"

Paul likes CW the best because he feels that he is operating on a more level playing field than he is with SSB. "The bigger stations can clobber me on SSB. It seems easier to make contacts with CW." He also mentions that he is working to get a little faster on the code which will come with time and experience. Paul has also thinks that the recent Michigan and Ohio QSO Parties has been a good way to get on and hone his operating skills.

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Paul's station consists of a TS-850, several QRP rigs, and a Hallicrafters HT-40 that he built a long time ago. His antenna farm presently consists of a Carolina Windom that is about 30 feet high in the back yard.

Paul joined Mad River when he received an invitation from Dave, K8CC after being listed in the 1998 Sweepstakes results. Since most of the hams he knew were not interested in contesting, joining MRRC provided Paul with contesters that he could talk to and learn from. Paul has been quite active in many of the contests over the past year and can also be found on the Mad River Radio Club Reflector. He would like to see the club grow and attract more new members. In addition to Mad River, Paul is a member of ARCI, MIQRP, FISTS, and the South Lyon Area Amateur Radio Club.

Paul is a sales manager for Albin Business Centers which markets Konica office products.

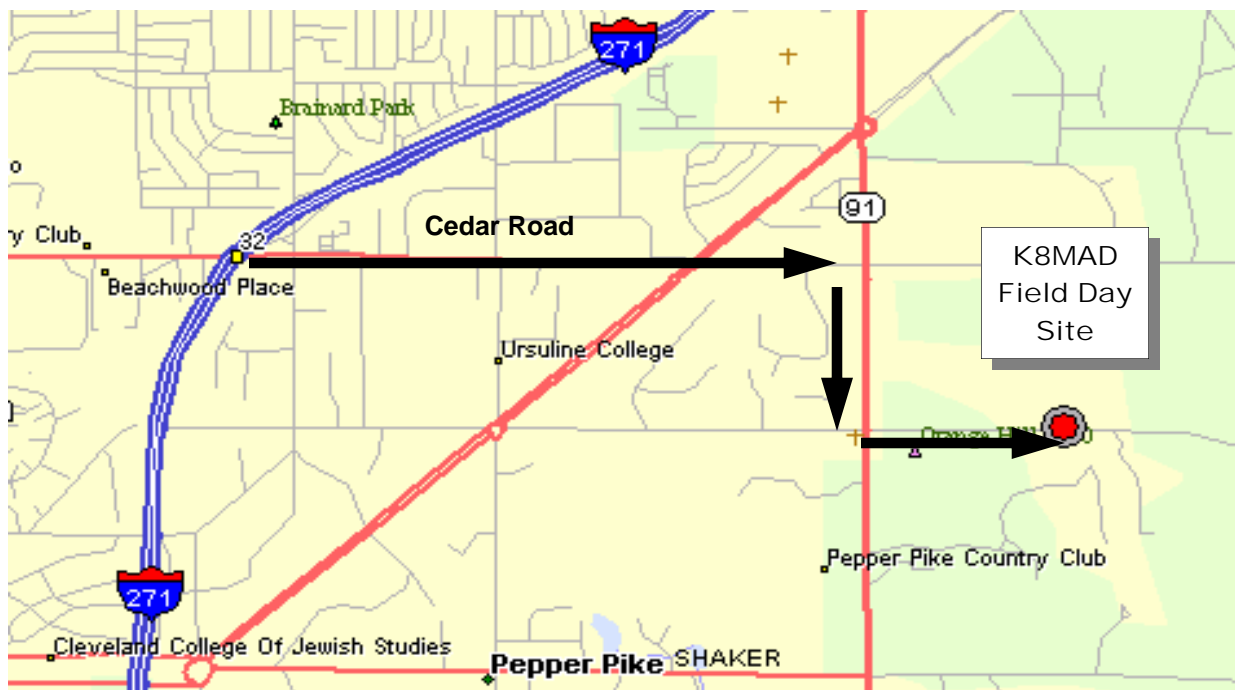
MRRC Scores				
Collected by Jim Stahl, K8MR				
WPX CW				
W8AV	1873	712	3,764,344 SOA	
K9NW (@WØAIH)	1598	678	2,836,752 15M	
NZ8O (W8MJ)	1324	549	1,814,445 LP	
K8GT	537	356	517,624 LP	
KC8FXR	293	204	140,964 T/S LP	
K8MR	226	163	100,571 T/S HP	
KT8X	115	102	29,784 SOHP	
AA8U	31	29	2,436 80M	
ARRL VHF Contest				
K8MR	50	180	78	SOLP
	144	132	41	
	222	42	26	
	432	50	28	
	Total	404	173	85,808
KU8E	50	122	73	Multi-Limited
	144	68	28	+K9NW
	222	0	0	
	432	0	0	

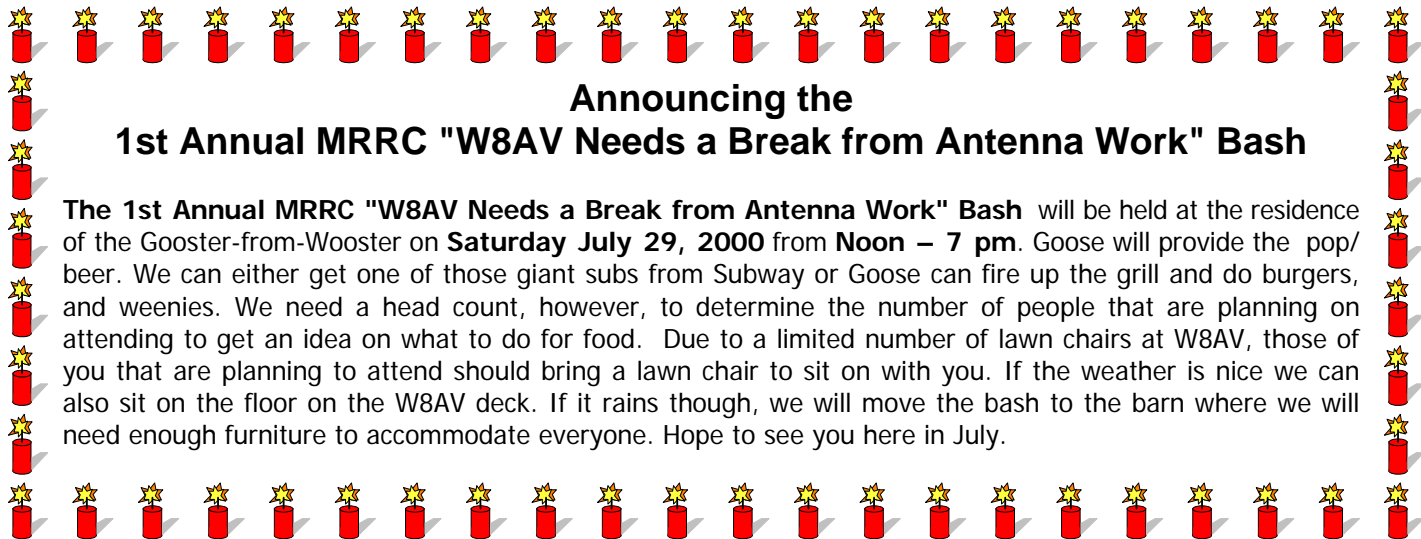
K8MAD - MRRC Field Day 2000

The Mad River Radio Club 1999 Field Day will be held at the Case Western Reserve Squire Valleyvue Farm near Cleveland, OH. The club plans to be operating class 2A, with two HF positions plus a VHF position (50/144). At press time, tentative ops are Dave-K8CC, Jim-K8MR, Jeff-KU8E and Goose-W8AV, but walk-ins are welcome.

Field Day is also an official MRRC meeting, attendance at which is counted towards the two meetings required to meet ARRL rules for submitting scores in the Affiliated Club competitions. Stop on out to the site and make half of your two meeting requirement for the 1999-2000 contest season.

Directions (see map below): On the east side of Cleveland, take I-271 to the Cedar Road exit. Go east on Cedar Road to SOM Center (also called Route 91). Turn right (south) on SOM Center to Fairmount Blvd. Turn left (east) on Fairmount and go about a mile to the farm entrance which is on the left. The address is 37125 Fairmount Blvd.

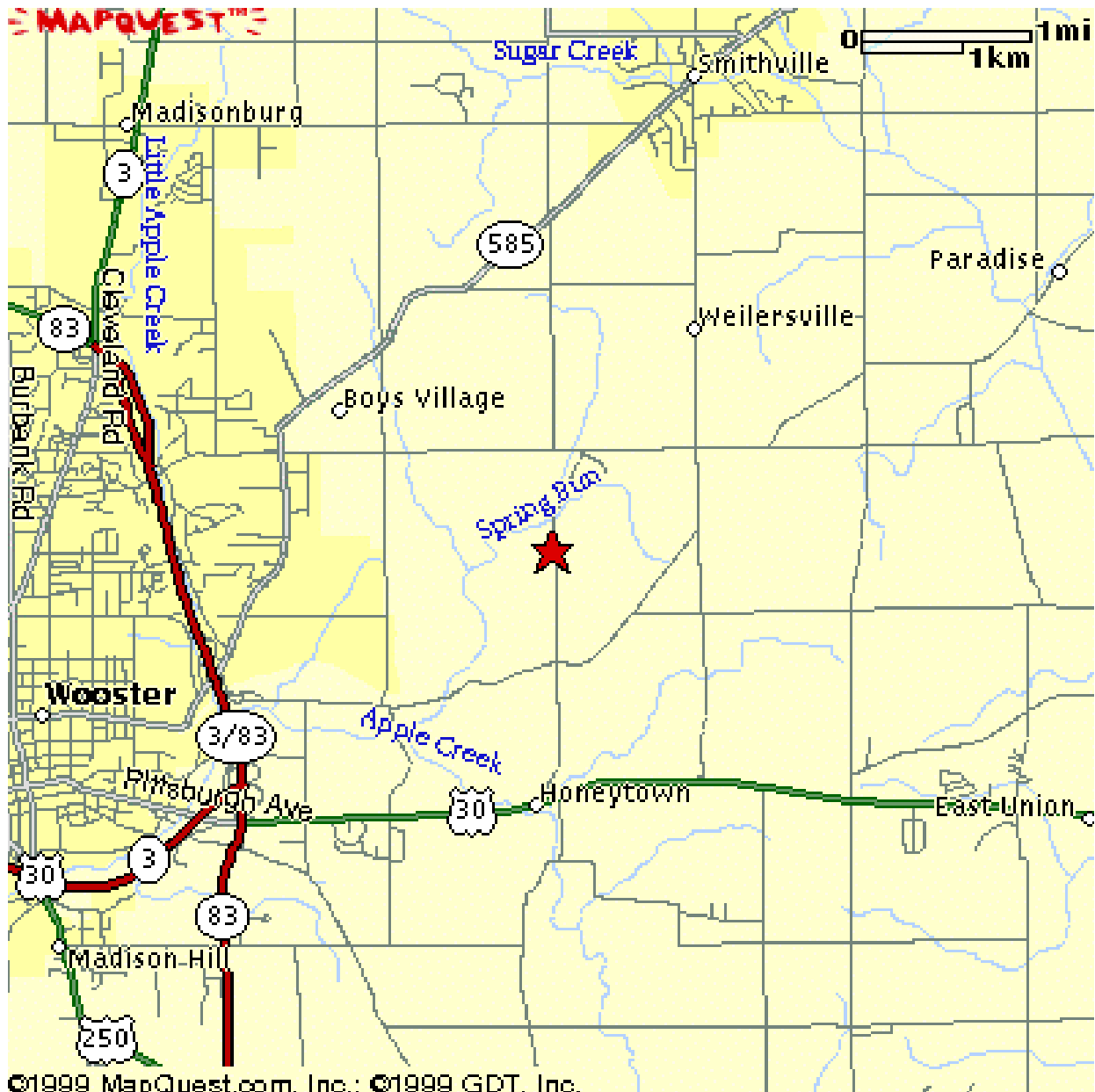




Announcing the 1st Annual MRRC "W8AV Needs a Break from Antenna Work" Bash

The 1st Annual MRRC "W8AV Needs a Break from Antenna Work" Bash will be held at the residence of the Gooster-from-Wooster on **Saturday July 29, 2000** from **Noon – 7 pm**. Goose will provide the pop/beer. We can either get one of those giant subs from Subway or Goose can fire up the grill and do burgers, and weenies. We need a head count, however, to determine the number of people that are planning on attending to get an idea on what to do for food. Due to a limited number of lawn chairs at W8AV, those of you that are planning to attend should bring a lawn chair to sit on with you. If the weather is nice we can also sit on the floor on the W8AV deck. If it rains though, we will move the bash to the barn where we will need enough furniture to accommodate everyone. Hope to see you here in July.

W8AV Address: 1690 N Honeytown Rd.,



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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 MRRRC 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 after 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 N8CQA at the address shown above. Please make checks out to the **Mad River Radio Club**.

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

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

Come join in with other MRRRC 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.



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