



## Big Fish

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decline, so why am I touting this one as great year? CQWW occurs much of the time on the Thanksgiving holiday, but this year it's the weekend prior! So you can probably convince your family that you'll spend quality time with them the entire holiday after SS and CQWW.

Last, but certainly not least, OQP. This year's OQP was a resounding success. There was great activity from within MRRC, Ohio, and around the country. If you haven't yet, check out the logs received page on our web site. Congratulations to Goose and Jim (and everyone else who helped) pull off another great event. Everyone's looking forward to seeing the posted results in several months.

### CLUB ROSTER

The official club roster was included as an insert to the hardcopy FLASH sent direct to members. This roster lists all members in good standing - i.e., those who have paid their dues and are active in club activities. Members who receive their FLASH on-line may request a paper copy of the roster by contacting the club treasurer N8CQA at the addresses shown on the last page of this newsletter.

The ARRL has tightened its rules for submission of the club roster to establish eligibility requirements for the Affiliated Club Competition. Only 'members in good standing' can submit scores for the club. Big Fish Dennis-KT8X has been coordinating the submission of MRRC's roster with ARRL HQ.

The club officers have worked diligently since the Findlay meeting in September to verify the accuracy of the roster, and also to bring back members whose dues had lapsed. (We hate to use the term delinquent.) Contact KT8X or club treasurer Buck-N8CQA for corrections or clarifications.

## MRRC SS Seven Million!!! Now is the time!

By Mike Tessmer, K9NW

It's time...

- Time to gear up for Sweepstakes - CW is only days away!
- Time for MRRC to defend its Medium Class SS title!
- Time to go after something even a bit more!

At the Findlay meeting we discussed not only going for a repeat win, but going after a new Medium Class record. But why stop there? The record is around, or maybe just shy of, six million points. A worthy target, yes. But why stop there? Why not shock the world? Seven Million!! Yep, you read that right. Seven Million!!

We certainly have the resources to do this. It's a huge challenge. It'll require more preparation than ever before. It'll require more commitment than ever before. It's a goal that is achievable when we all work together!

So what kind of numbers are we talking about?

**7,000,000/48 entries = 145,833 points per entry**

**145,833/78 mults = 1870 QSO points**

**1870/2 = 935 QSOs**

These are heady numbers but they are very much doable from W8. You'll notice there is some "wiggle room" factored in as well. We are allowed 50 entries and there are 80 total mults. It is recognized that some entry categories are more conducive to certain numbers than others. SSB generally produces more QSOs than CW. And it should also be emphasized that there is absolutely no intent here to dictate any particular type of activity. It's entries, in ALL categories, that drive the club total!

I will act as SS coordinator. Please let me know what your plans are for each mode. If you are hosting a multi-op, let me know who will be filling the chairs. If you are looking for ops, or are looking for a place from which to op, let me know. If you can't operate for one reason or another but are willing to host a guest-op, let me know.

One more thing....

Please carefully consider some specific numbers to shoot for, a personal/station goal - a commitment - that you will go after and pass that on as well. You don't have to make that number public to the reflector (watch your Reply/Reply All buttons...) and I won't broadcast it to the world either. What I will do is use these numbers to see how we are progressing toward our team goal....periodically posting the total commitment to the reflector.

With YOUR contribution, WE will make this happen!

Good luck!!

## QSO Party Summary

**Paul Valentine, K8AAX**  
*k8aax@cs.com*

### California QSO Party

	QSOs	Score
W8MJ	1,194	162,168
K8CC	428	61,422
K5IID/QRP	228	55,620
K8MR	399	52,030
N8KR	337	43,491
K8GT	204	23,923
N8KM	147	15,582
K8AAX	144	15,129
K9TM	144	14,398
K8MAD/m (K8MR op.)	137	13,760
KT8X	106	10,686
W8RU	26	1,716

Total Club Score: **469,925**

Up 61 % from last year!

W8MJ beat his 1999 Michigan record by 234 Q's and 30,131 Points—Great job Ken!

### Pennsylvania QSO Party

	QSOs	Score
K8MR/m (+W8DRZ)	803	140,343
W8MJ	747	66,732
N8NX	272	18,272
K8CC	215	17,081
K8AAX	156	8,808
N8KR	54	2,139
W8RU	22	385
K5IID	5	62.5

Total Club Score: **253,822.5**

Thanks to everyone who got on and see you next year.

## Low Cost Antenna Enclosure

By Dave Pruett, K8CC *k8cc@comcast.net*

For many years I've used a shunt-fed tower as the 160M transmit antenna at K8CC. The antenna has always worked supremely well for us, and since it utilizes an existing structure (at K8CC, the tower holding the 15M yagi stack) it adds no additional interactions with other antennas (important at a multi-multi contest station).

One aspect of a shunt-fed tower is that in virtually all cases, a high voltage capacitor is needed at the feedpoint to cancel out the inductive reactance of the shunt feed. I originally used a large air variable, but experienced problems with arcing which was fixed by switching to a high voltage vacuum variable capacitor.

One ongoing problem concerned providing an enclosure to protect the capacitor from the elements. Over the years an assortment of plastic refrigerator boxes, Tupperware and such were used, but each would eventually break down from exposure to the sun's UV rays and fall apart.

I recently had to replace my mailbox after some teenage hooligans blew it up as a prank. A trip to the local Home Depot yielded a plastic replacement mailbox for only \$5.77. The suitability of the mailbox for use as an enclosure for my shunt-feed capacitor was not lost on me. My previous mailbox (the same type) always did a pretty good job of keeping my mail dry, as long as the mailman closed the door properly. The box was big enough to enclose my big vacuum variable, so another was purchased.

The photo to the right shows the completed installation. Steel angle stock mounts to the tower legs with U-bolts, while the mailbox is supported by stainless steel hardware and threaded standoffs. Holes were cut out of the bottom of the mailbox to clear the ceramic insulator for the shunt wire and the SO-239 connector for the coax feedline. These openings will also permit any liquid from humidity or condensation to drain from the mailbox without effect.



The photo at left shows the mounting of the capacitor on a plate within the mailbox. The mounting bolts pass through the aluminum plate on which the capacitor is mounted, through the bottom of the mailbox to the angle stock. The plate provides a conductive mounting point for the coax connector. By mounting the capacitor such that the shaft points toward the open end of the mailbox, it may be adjusted simply by opening the door.

The mailbox-turned-capacitor cover has only been in use for a short time, but it has already endured some Michigan fall rains and kept the capacitor high and dry. The UV-resistant plastic construction of the mailbox should provide many years of service.



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Treasurer's Report

09/01/02	Balance:	\$1107.15
	Deposits:	\$ 61.00
	Expenditures:	\$ 541.00
10/31/02	Balance:	\$ 627.15

This past month, the 2001 OQP plaques were completed and mailed to the winners. We were fortunate that the plaques came in under budget. Thanks to Mike, WD8S for his efforts in getting the plaques engraved, processed and mailed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Buck Switzer, N8CQA*  
Treasurer

MRRC SS Handbook

2nd Edition

Now Available On-Line

MRRC has recently published an updated version of its SS Handbook, which is available online from the MRRC web site <http://www.mrrc.net/>. This Handbook was compiled with input from some of the club's best SSers, including sections on antennas, propagation, off-times, techniques for specific power categories and more. Click on the 'Sweepstakes Handbook' link in the upper right corner of the page. The Handbook is in .PDF format, so you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader for it to be viewed.

Club Resources

The Mad River Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated club of amateur radio contesting enthusiasts. The club is centered near Findlay, OH and serves Ohio and the surrounding States. Membership is open to anyone.

The *Flash* is the official newsletter of MRRC and is published six times per year. Submission of material for publication is welcome. It may be sent to the editor at the postal or e-mail address shown at right. The *Flash* may be reprinted in whole or in part provided proper credit is given.

Club dues are \$12 per year, payable after the 1st of May each year with a grace period thru 31st of July each year. Members of the same family living at the same address may elect to receive a single Flash for one set of dues. Fulltime students are eligible for dues at half price. Dues are to be paid to the treasurer at the address shown above. Please make checks payable to *Mad River Radio Club*.

The club roster appears annually in the October/November issue of the *Flash*.

The Mad River Net is held on Monday nights at 8:30 PM Eastern time on 3825 KHz.

The MRRC web site is <http://www.mrrc.net>.

Keep up with MRRC happenings by subscribing to the MRRC Internet Reflector. To join send an email to [mrrc-re-quest@contesting.com](mailto:mrrc-re-quest@contesting.com). The body of the message should include "subscribe mrrc yourcall".

K8MAD is the club callsign of the Mad River Radio Club.

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