



From the Big Fish

Mike Tessmer, K9NW k9nw@qth.com

Greetings MRRCers! I'm pleased to have been elected (railroaded?) as Fish of this fine organization.

First of all, thanks to Dennis, KT8X for his leadership during the past year and to Buck, N8COA for serving as Treasurer for, I believe, several years. Dennis hasn't totally left the scene as he has assumed the Treasurer's role.

Amidst a swirl of rumors of this possibly being the last one in Dayton, another Hamvention™ has come and gone. SITS was another success and we're planning to return in 2004. The Contest Super Suite, of which MRRC is a sponsor, had good crowds. I haven't heard directly of major purchases by members but no doubt deals were made and station upgrades are in the works. No time like the present to start on those

And there are a lot of activities for MRRCers in the coming months in which to test run these station enhancements. NAQPs and OQP in August, Sprints in September. There should be MRRC teams in most of these events....watch the reflector for announcements. Even WAE has a club competition so if you get on for your yearly QTC fix, be sure to indicate MRRC on your log.

Speaking of OQP, and this year being the Ohio Bicentennial and all, expect a large amount of activity as Ohio clubs gear up to participate in the celebration. Some mobile efforts have already announced plans on the MRRC web page. More are forthcoming. The OQP committee



has been busily promoting the event. I've perused a handful of club websites and many of them make mention of OQP. I hope all MRRCers, and especially those in Ohio, are able to tune the bands at least for a few hours during the party.

MRRC is your club. Please feel free to contact me with ideas, comments, etc. Good luck in all your summer contest efforts. I hope to see you on the bands in a few of them and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Wooster and Findlay.

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Note: Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts, the MRRC meeting for August at the W8AV QTH, a.k.a. Goosalooza IV, has been postponed until next year.

Upcoming Events

14-16 June
ARRL June VHF QSO Party

28-29 June
ARRL Field Day

12-13 July
IARU HF Championship

19-20 July
CQ VHF DX Contest

26-27 July
IOTA Contest

2-3 August
NAQP CW Contest

WX3M Feedline Project

By Don Chisholm, WX3M

Several months ago, I bought an old, very solid, three-story 1929 Colonial-style home in the Seminole Hills historic district in the city of Pontiac, Michigan. The following article explains what I did to route antenna feedlines from the yard to the basement in

what might have been otherwise considered a "difficult situation."

First, there were not any "no-brainer" ways to connect feedlines through. The house is brick and all

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2003 Ohio QSO Party

August 23-24, 2003

1600Z - 0400Z



Abbreviated OhQP Rules

(Full OhQP rules available on the MRRRC web site <http://www.mrrc.net>)

Contest Period: 1600 UTC - 23 August 2003 to 0400 UTC - 24 August 2003

Stations outside of Ohio work as many Ohio stations in as many counties as possible. Stations in Ohio work anyone.

Exchange: Ohio stations send QSO number and county. Stations outside of Ohio send QSO number and state, province, or "DX" for non-W/VE.

QSO Points: Phone QSO = 1 point, CW QSO = 2 points.

Multipliers: Ohio stations count Ohio counties (88), states (49) and Canadian provinces (11). All others count Ohio counties for a maximum of 88. A station can be in only one county at any given time.

Feedline Project

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of the masonry is intact and the foundation is very solid. The basement windows are all glass block, without vents. Also, the basement room which serves as the radio room is finished entirely in wet plaster. Some might say, "Who cares?", however, this old house and this old basement room both have plenty of "character" and I was not quite ready to destroy it all, yet.

In 1978, a family room was added on to the northeast corner of the house. The northeast basement window (in the radio room) that normally would have looked outside to the world now looked into the crawl-space under this new addition. When the other basement windows were replaced with glass block, this one was left original, to serve as an access to the crawl-space. I decided the best way to get feedlines into the room would be to go from the outside into the crawl-space and then through the access window into the basement.

The plan was to use 12" long UHF bulkhead connectors, and mount them through the cinder block foundation of the family room. I could then mount short bulkheads on a piece of plywood, in place of a window pane in the "access" window, and connect them together with coax jumpers. I would end up with a "patch panel" of sorts outside and inside. Lastly, the connectors could all be grounded easily outside and disconnected, if necessary.

As I investigated the logistics of this, I actually "looked" under the room and discovered a better way. Sitting on the foundation cinder blocks are the vertical



Outside View Of Bulkhead Connectors

2x10 joists that support the floor to the family room. If I went through the wall about 8" higher, I could mount shorter bulkhead connectors through wood instead of masonry. This would require drilling through the aluminum siding of the house, but I figured this was an acceptable compromise.

I found 8" bulkhead connectors on the Internet at Global Connections in St. Joseph, MO, who recommended purchasing the "extra large mounting nuts." This would allow for more solid mounting and the very small, supplied nuts could act as lock-stop bushings. I ordered eight 8" connectors for the cinder blocks, eight 4" connectors to go through the wood "window pane" and sixteen heavy-duty mounting nuts. While the bulkhead connectors were en route, I purchased some 9913 equivalent and a mess of PL-259s from a local CB shop and built the jumpers to go under the crawlspace. I then had a piece of 1/2" plywood cut to fit the window pane. I removed the old window pane (with a hammer) and chiseled out the ancient cement that held it in place. Finally I glued the plywood in place with Type II clear silicone.

Since there is newer, narrow aluminum siding on that part of the house, I planned to put four connectors in a row in the center of the bottom level of siding, and another four above them on the next level of siding (offset). I wanted to mount each row of four connectors to a common aluminum plate, so I could ground all the feedlines at that point, before entering the radio room. I figured this would give an iota of lightning protection as well as eliminate common-mode currents. However, I wasn't sure where to find aluminum bar or plate stock, short of ordering it on the internet. One day, during one of my 42,621 trips to Home Depot during this project, I found a piece of flat aluminum stock just like I needed.



Basement Window With Inside Bulkhead Panel

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From that point on, the project went together pretty smoothly. The advice of the sales lady at GC to get the heavy-duty mounting nuts was sound, indeed. They are absolutely necessary to mount the connectors in a physically secure manner. After tightening everything up, I used the small mounting nuts as lock-stops and everything seems to hold together very well.

The results? Well, I quickly erected a 40m elevated vertical at 50', a 30m dipole at 55', and a 50/144/432 "stick" to compliment the existing 102' doublet at 50'. I have plans for more HF and some weak-signal VHF/UHF antennas, but that is another project.....

Treasurer's Report

Income	
Balance Forwarded from N8CQA	\$461.71
Dues collected this period	\$518.00
SITS Battery Sales	\$225.00
Sub-total	\$743.00
Expenses	
Super Suite Expense	\$180.00
SITS Expense	\$268.00
OQP Expenses	\$15.00
Final Service Charge-Huntington	\$5.00
FLASH Expenses Dec - May	\$133.18
Sub-total	\$604.18
Balance	\$603.53

Respectfully Submitted - Dennis, KT8X

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 at right. 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-request@contesting.com. The body of the message should include "subscribe".

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

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