

Big Fish

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who has certainly taken some interest in a number of events is our own W8MJ. In recent years Ken has taken the top out-of-state spot in the CA, PA, FL and probably a few others. Thanks, Ken, for carrying the MRRC banner and representing MRRC in top-notch fashion!

It's May, so it's time for Dayton! Once again MRRC will host the Suite In The Sun in the flea market area as well as being a co-sponsor of the Contest Super Suite at the Crowne Plaza. I hope you all get a chance to stop by each for a while over the course of the weekend. And don't forget the MRRC meeting at noon on Saturday. This is our annual meeting, the highlight no doubt being the election....er, railroad of officers. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Dayton!

73, Mike K9NW

Treasurers Report
February 29, 2004

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Balance Forward | \$653.16 |
| Dues collected this period | \$48.00 |
| OhQP Plaques | \$300.00 |
| SS Great Lakes QRP Plaques (\$134.00) | |
| Balance | \$867.16 |

Please note that \$300 towards OhQP plaques are from other organizations until payment was due to WZ8P.

The first 10 badge blanks have been paid for. Please see Sean K8KHZ for details. New name badges are \$15.00. Please make your check payable to Mad River Radio Club. Show your MRRC spirit and purchase your badge if you don't already have one!

The annual Dayton Dues Collection will occur at the MRRC meeting on Saturday in Hara Arena. We can accept cash, or a check for the exact amount payable to Mad River Radio Club.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis Ward, KT8X

MRRC At Dayton 2004

Dayton is a very important part of the MRRC year. For the benefit of planning your weekend, the various club activities over the Hamvention weekend are described below:

SUITE IN THE SUN (SITS) - The MRRC oasis in the midst of the fleamarket. See details in the article across the page.

CONTESTERS SUPER SUITE - In conjunction with our friends from the North Coast Contesters and the Frankford Radio Club, MRRC sponsors a hospitality suite at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. There is a cash bar, and you can spend the evening chewing the rag with well known contesters from around the world. The action begins around 9:00 and runs well into the night. Around midnight, pizzas are brought in for contesteer consumption.

MRRC MEETING - The most important MRRC activity at Dayton is the official club meeting, which starts at 12:00 noon on Saturday, and is held in the stands of Hara Arena above the Cushcraft booth. This meeting is important because this is when the club holds the annual election of officers, and usually conducts its significant annual business. Dayton is also the start of the club's fiscal year, so dues become due at this meeting.

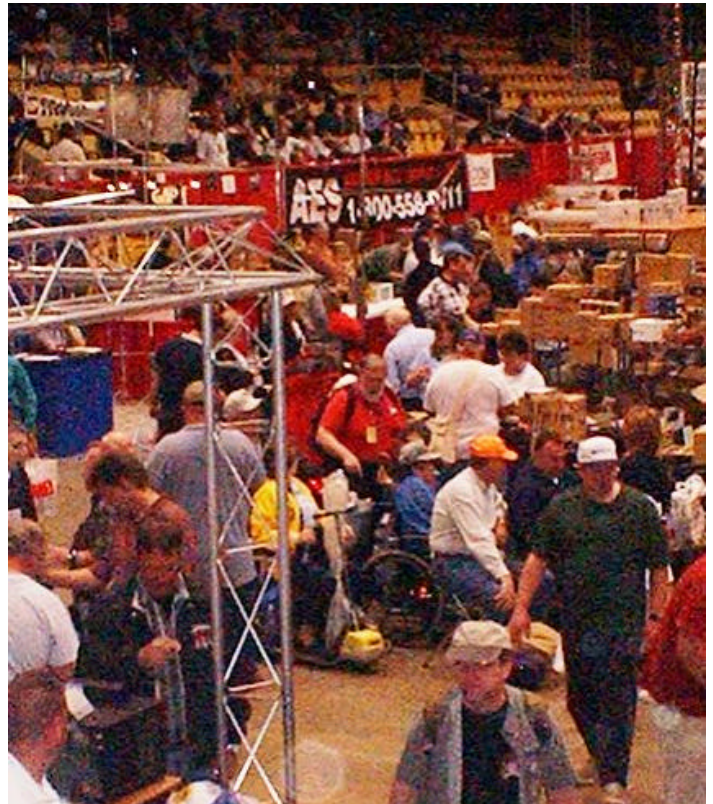


Photo Courtesy of K8KHZ

Dayton Suite In The Sun

By Jim Stahl, K8MR & Dave Pruett, K8CC

It's time again to finalize the plans for the 2004 MRRC Suite in the Sun, otherwise known within the club at SITS. What is SITS? For several years now the club has purchased three Hamvention fleamarket spots to be an oasis for club members, friends and fellow contesters. SITS is partly a social event, as well as a place to park your goodies during the day. Chairs will be available to take a load off your feet, and a cooler with cold soft drinks is always nearby.

SITS is also a tremendous place to sell stuff, utilizing the club's selling tables. Here is your chance to clean out some of that old junk, turn in into cash, and make money and space new gizmos. Each year, by Saturday afternoon we have usually pretty much cleared out all we had to sell!

SITS will be back in the same location as previous year, spaces 3858-3860 which are on the east side of the fleamarket about three rows from the back. SITS will be open from approximately 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday.

We need volunteers to sign up to help man the SITS. This is not difficult duty; all that's expected is to show up at the appointed time and "hold down the fort" - basically just answer buyer's questions about the stuff for sale and in general act like the host. We'd like to see people put in two hours at some point - either a single two hour shift, or an hour each day. It's a big help if we can plan this up front, so if you can help please drop a note by Wednesday evening either to the MRRC reflector or to Jim at jimk8mr@aol.com.

If you have items you wish to sell at the SITS, bring it to the site as early as possible on Friday. Be sure to tell us what your asking and acceptable prices (we're not mind-readers). If you have items you simply want to get rid of and not worry about (no true junk, please), you can bring it and donate the proceeds to the club.

MRRC crews from Michigan and Cleveland will be setting up the SITS on Thursday afternoon. Both groups should have some space available in their vans to haul stuff down and directly to the SITS (thus saving having to haul it from the parking lot) if you can get the stuff to them by Wednesday evening. Contact K8CC (MI) or K8MR (Cleveland) to make arrangements—phone numbers and e-mails are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

We'll see you all in Dayton soon! (And cross your fingers for some good weather!

The Editor's Keyboard

Dave Pruett, K8CC
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I don't regularly write a column in this newsletter. However, after being a member of this club for 22 years, there are a couple of things I'd like to talk about as we head into Dayton 2004...

The Sweepstakes 2003 Affiliated Club Competition was either a failure or a triumph, depending on how you choose to look at it. Our goal was to not finish last in the Unlimited Category, but instead we wind up winning the Medium Category.

While this "inadvertent" win is certainly welcome (and in my opinion, well deserved thanks to the hard work of the MRRCers who got on), the fact that MRRC could only muster 44 entries across two contest weekends when we were supposedly making a maximum effort to get everyone on worries me as we look towards the challenge with the Minnesota Wireless Association in this fall's SS.

In case you've not noticed, MWA has recently shown it can really turn out the troops when they put their mind to it. Did you notice all of the MN stations on in last winter's ARRL 160 contest? And MN stations were everywhere in last month's MiQP. This is what they'll bring to bear in SS.

For MRRC to win the MWA challenge will require EVERYONE to get on and make a maximum effort. The club's "big guns" will no doubt be ready, but we need a big turnout of smaller scores as well - the 50K-100K efforts that almost every station in MRRC is capable of. We need everyone to get serious, at least for those two weekends, and I will go on record saying that I will do everything possible to maximize the number of points coming from my station.

By most accounts, the 2004 Michigan QSO Party was a big success. Activity seemed to be very good, despite very poor high band conditions. MRRC had at least seven full-time multi-ops QRV, and what competition—the top three are all within about than 1%! There were a lot of unfamiliar out-of-state calls active. MRRC activity, both in and out of state was very good. The MI contingent thanks you for your support, now don't forget to SEND IN YOUR LOGS!

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Editor's Keyboard

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MRRRC has changed a lot in the 22 years I've been a member. In 1982, the NAQPs had not yet been invented, and "Radio Free Ypsilanti" was just a gleam in K8CC's eye. The club had more big stations than like AD8I, K3LR, K8NZ, KS8S, WD9INF, etc. The focus seemed to be primarily SS and DX contests, with a strong sub-set of 160M interest. Back then, K8ND held a contest-pedition franchise, with regular operations from VP2E.

Today, we have fewer really big stations, but probably no less "serious" stations which make up a

huge chunk of a club score. I sense there is less interest within the club in DX contests these days, an effect which will probably get worse as the sunspots decline. On the other hand, interest in team competitions like NAQP and Sprints is up. Club activity in the MI and OH QSO parties is WAY up from 22 years ago. And MRRRC contest-peditioning has never been more active with groups out of Adrian, Detroit and Port Huron, plus member activities as part of the CCC.

Here's my point. Some people talk like amateur radio is atrophying and contesting is dying. The ham population as a whole is getting older (including our club) with all too few K8GUs and WX3Ms join-

ing our ranks. But I would argue that aging is natural, and it's all really a matter of perspective. I turned 50 this year, and while I might spend less time playing radio, I love it as much as I ever did.

It's my hope that all MRRRCers would feel the same way. While we can't deny the outside distractions that demand our attention, and we might not have the stamina of our youth, contesting at it's most elemental is still a lot of fun. So as we're able, we pick our battles and go for it!

I would hope that MRRRCers would look ahead to the fall and include SS CW and SSB in those battle plans.

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

Keep up with MRRRC happenings by subscribing to the MRRRC Internet Reflector. To join send an email to 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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