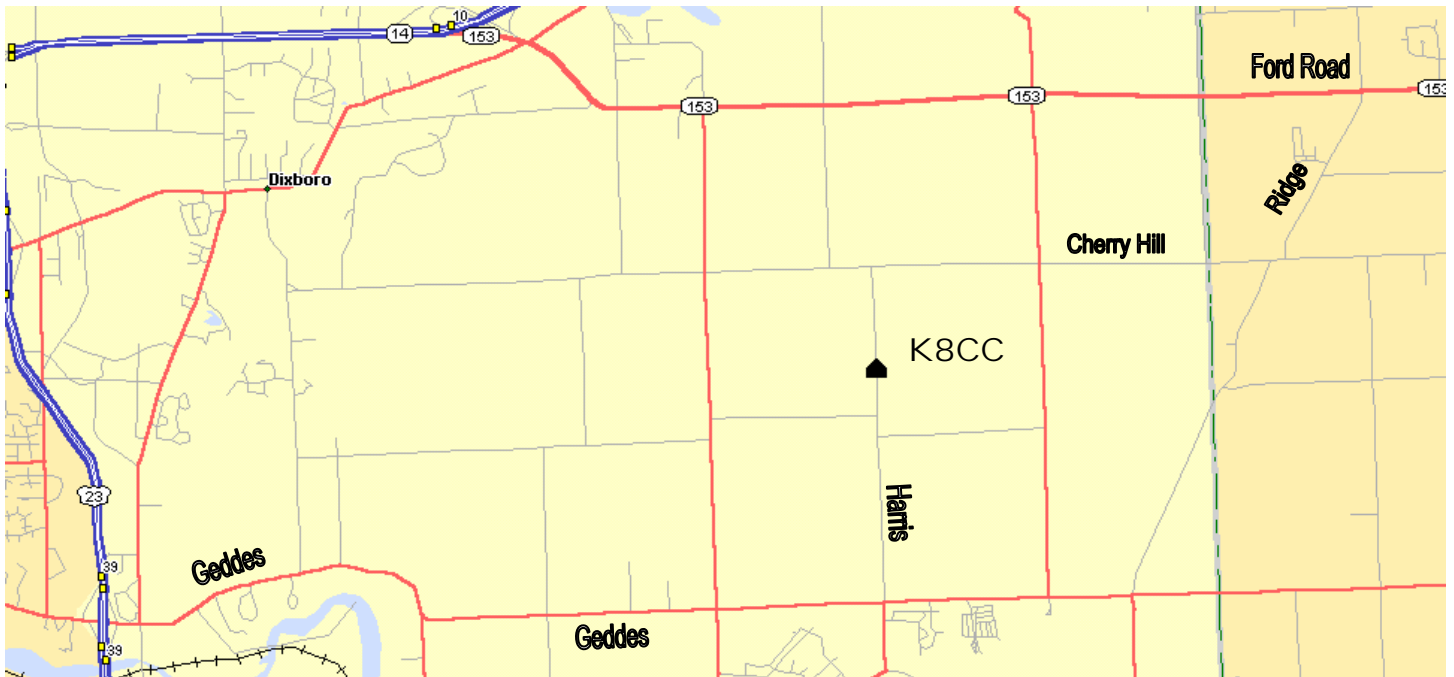


K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MiQP Meeting



Treasurers Report
March 13, 2005

Balance Forward	\$1293.88
Dues collected this period	\$12
Voided Check (from 11/03)	\$35.64
MiQP Plaques	(\$556.00)
Flash Expenses (10/03-01/05)	(\$77.70)
MRRC Challenge Plaques	(\$120.00)
Balance	\$587.82

\$480 for the MiQP plaques were from other organizations until payment was due to WZ8P. MRRC's only expense for MiQP plaques was the plaque which we sponsor.

I know it's early, but the annual Dayton Dues Collection will occur at the meeting on Saturday in Hara Arena. If any of you wish, please feel free to bring a check for the exact amount payable to Mad River Radio Club. If you won't be able to make it, I will happily collect your dues early

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis Ward, KT8X

The sixth annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MiQP MRRC meeting will be Saturday April 9, 2005 starting around 12:00 noon.

The meeting is an opportunity to get out of the house after the long winter, and join with other MRRCers in discussing plans for the Michigan QSO Party, to shoot the breeze about radio stuff and see the K8CC station.

Lunch will be provided. To assist planning, please RSVP to k8cc@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

Directions:

From the West:

- US-23 to Geddes Road (exit 39) and go east
- Follow Geddes Road past Prospect (light) one mile to Harris Road
- Turn north (left) on Harris for 1½ miles to K8CC on left

From the East:

- I-275 to Ford Road (M-153) west
- Follow Ford Road for 4 miles to Ridge Road south (left)
- Follow Ridge Road for one mile to Cherry Hill west (right)
- Follow Cherry Hill for 3 miles to Harris Road
- Turn south (left) on Harris for ½ mile to K8CC on right

(Harris and Cherry Hill are dirt roads)

Michigan QSO Party

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

As this is being written, the 2005 Michigan QSO Party is about four weeks away. As MRRC is the sponsoring club for MiQP, we'd like to encourage all MRRCCers to participate; particularly if you live in MI.

The history of the MiQP dates back to at least 1970, when a contest announcement appeared in the April 1970 QST Operating Events section. The announcement said to send logs to the Central MI ARC (CMARC). It is believed that CMARC started the MiQP. In 1975, the Oak Park (MI) ARC assumed responsibility for the MiQP until 1996 when events transpired against it. First, the Dayton Hamvention moved to the MiQP weekend, followed by a financially disastrous Oak Park Swap & Shop which busted the club's budget. In 1997, the Eastern MI ARC and Hazel Park (MI) ARC joined forces to sponsor MiQP. Under the guidance of MRRCCers **Hank, K8DD** and **Mike, WD8S**. MiQP continued through 1998 when MRRC took over in 1999.

Under MRRC, MiQP has been organized by an informal group of MI hams. Most are MRRCCers, but efforts are made to involve hams from other clubs. In 2003, MiQP got it's own web site at <http://www.miqp.org> and its own e-mail reflector.

Through the records of certain MI hams, we've been able to assemble the results of MiQPs dating back to 1978, only missing 1979, 1992-93, and 1995. These results are posted on the web site. From these results, certain information about MiQP can be ascertained:

- 58% of the fixed station entries over the course of MiQP history have come from just four counties: St. Clair, Lenawee, Oakland, and Macomb. This directly correlates to certain clubs who have

focused on MiQP at various times: L'Anse Creuse, then EMARC, then the Adrian ARC. This illustrates an important reality - MiQP's success depends on clubs.

- Fourteen MI counties have never had a fixed station log submitted: Allegan, Barry, Cass, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Mason, Montcalm, Muskegon and Oceana in the Lower Peninsula, and Chippewa, Gogebic, Luce, Ontonagon and Schoolcraft in the Upper.

Back in the 80s, MiQP had the reputation as a QSO party with good activity. Log entries averaged 151/year from 1981-83, peaking in 1982 with 166. The number of entries dropped below 100 in 1987 and did not recover above that level until 2001. From 2002-04 log entries averaged 168/year, peaking at 204 in 2003 before a slight drop in 2004.

How does the MiQP compare against other state QSO parties? In terms of total entries based on published results, the "big three" are PA, FL, then CA with 600-700 entries. The "second tier" appears to be WI, MI, OH and IL with totals in the mid-to-high 100s to low 200s. The others appear to have well under 100 entries, if they publish results at all.

It is instructive to consider what makes the "big three" successful. The CaQP and FIQP are geographically located to make maximum use of the high bands (20/15/10) for widespread American and international coverage. They also enjoy the support of one or more large DX and contesting clubs in their areas. PaQP, on the other hand, relies mostly on 80/40 for short skip to the population centers, and while the PA DX/contest clubs don't ignore PaQP, most of the activity comes from the members of the general interest clubs in the state.

The MiQP committee has been trying to follow the PA model by recruiting the involvement of MI gen-

eral interest clubs. MiQP Communications Manager Mark, NU8Z maintains a steady flow of information. We also solicit the support of the ARRL leadership at the section and division level.

We're pursuing this approach because the success of MiQP relies on the activity of MI hams. And yet, out-of-state activity has out-paced in-state activity in MiQP by 20.8% over the past two years.

Drawing from the CA model, the MiQP committee is pursuing the support of the state's major DX (Southeastern MI DX Association and MI DX Association) and contesting clubs (MRRC) to support MiQP.

This is where the MRRC membership comes in. By my count, MRRC has 41 MI members living in 12 different counties. 27 of those were active in the 2004 MiQP, along with four OH "visitors". While this is a pretty good percentage for the in-state crew, we need **everyone** to get on. It's only twelve hours on a Saturday, but even a part-time effort would help build activity.

As stated earlier, 14 MI counties have never had a fixed station entry in 23 MiQPs; 29 more have had fewer than five. Why not do a portable operation from a rare county (i.e., Field Day in April) when there is a real contest at stake? This could be a chance for the OH MRRC contingent to join in - check out the MI DNR web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr> for state campgrounds and cabins which might make great MiQP QTHs.

I know state QSO parties are not everyone's cup of tea. I too used to nod politely when K8DD or AC8W would mention MiQP. However I've come to recognize that MI is an interesting state, and that a camaraderie exists with other ops in the state. MiQP may not be high skill like a Sprint, or have the national significance of SS or a DX contest, but it fosters that camaraderie. I hope you'll come and join us on April 16. □

