

The blizzard of 78 is now history, and I hope your antennas satisfied the classic criteria for being too small (If your antenna stayed up last winter, it was too small). Unfortunately a few were big enough. W8EDU lost a 60 foot tower and 20 meter monobander. W8WPC's 20 meter beam is now minus reflector and driven element. WA8YWX's beams now point straight down due to a bent mast. The reflector on K8NZ's 20M beam was vertically polarized. This list unfortunately is probably not complete, but I hope your station doesn't belong here.

If you were fortunate enough to survive the storm, I hope you were fortunate enough to get on for the ARRL Phone DX test. Conditions for the first weekend were reported to be excellent. Solar flux numbers were in the 160 range, indicating wide open conditions on the high bands. If for some stupid reason you missed all this (which includes the Big Fish who was in Vt. skiing) there are still both weekends of cw and the second phone weekend. Considering the 27 day solar cycle and improving springtime conditions, conditions could be even better, so don't miss it. Mad River will of course be entering a club score, and will be looking for each and every member's contribution to the aggregate.

#### DAYTON:

Spring can't be far away, because the announcements are beginning to appear for the Dayton Hamvention. With the closing of the Biltmore Hotel, this year the new nesting place for the contest/dx crowd is the downtown Sheraton. The first Mad River meeting of 1978 is scheduled for 3:30p.m. on Saturday (April 29) in meeting room #8 at the Hamvention. We've been promised at least an hour without last year's rush to turn out the lights, etc. Items on the agenda already include: 1) election of a new Big Fish. Following the example set last year by K8NZ, I do not wish to be considered for reelection, in order both to bring new blood and new ideas to the position and to give me more time for building and operating K8MR. 2) Meeting dates will need to be set for the following year. Would a change of dates/locations make meetings more convenient? How about a mid winter meeting to ease the bunching of meetings in the late summer and give a chance to B.S. over the fall contests? 3) Should the club set some minimum activity level for its members, for example at least one contest score toward a club aggregate? 4) Anyone interested in a Mad River Field Day operation, and any ideas on what and where if there is interest?

The Dayton meeting is the club's biggest in person meeting. Since most active hams in this part of the country attend the hamfest anyway, making this meeting is quite easy. So invite any friends interested in contesting to this meeting to join the club. There will be letters sent to known contesters in the area who are not yet in MRRC. If you know of any such hams who should be contacted, please let the Big Fish know.

#### SCORE SS SCORES:

CW: WA3WIK 111/48 - 10,850 W8SWB 425/69 - 58,650 W8IDM 281/66-37,092  
 W88JBM (multi) 853/71- 121,126  
 SSB: K3LR 152/46-12,160 K3LR/8 61/23-2806 WA3WIK(multi)890/71-126,380  
 W8IDM 138/66-18,216 W8SWB 741/75-111,140 W88JBM(mul)1138/74-168,424

#### HOT FLASHES:

W8UQH is now K8AZ. Back in Ohio is K8FU, exK7FU/W88NUA. W88RCN put up a seven element quad covering 20 through 2 meters. K3UA now owns a TS-820 and has been on the MRRC net from school at Penn State. WA3WIK shunt fed his 80 foot tower on 160M with good results. W8KIC had very neat SS logs, duped and printed by computer. K8MR has a very simple mod for independent filter switching on the TS-820. The club NCJ awards (Vol3 #8) went to K3UA for SS and W9LT for CQ WW. 73, de Jim K8MR