

It's that time of the year - time for the world's biggest hamfest right in Mad River's back yard. Once again Mad River's first meeting of the year will be held at Dayton, on Saturday, April 29, at 3:30pm in meeting room #8. Business already on the Agenda includes election of a new Big Fish (K8MR is not running for reelection), setting meeting times and places, discussing sponsorship of the Ohio QSO Party.

New members are of course welcome. If you know any contest fans, give them a personal welcome. The Big Fish is sending letters to a number of contesters not yet in MRRC, but there are certain to be people overlooked here, so do some recruiting on your own.

The contest hospitality suites will be in the downtown Sheraton this year. According to HR Report, the Biltmore has delayed its closing and will be open during the hamfest. If you're still in need of a room, give it a try.

The Big Fish is planning to be in Dayton late Thursday with some of the Cleveland area Mad River gang. If you're also in that early, look us up for an early start on the big weekend.

CAC NEWS:

Eighth area CAC man K8IA reports the recent news: IARU scoring has been changed to give 1 point/QSO for same zone QSOs, 3 for different zone/same continent, 5 for different zone/continent. CAC is to review administration of ARRL sponsored events, including disqualification criteria. Also to be studied is format and duration of ARRL contests, i.e. shortening the DX test to one weekend per mode.

The ARRL is instituting a three tier club competition, probably beginning with the 1978 SS. Division will be into clubs with less than 10, 11-50, and more than 50 members. Although proposals had been made to permit entries with more than one club (in different classes), the final result will permit submitting a score for only one club.

FIELD DAY:

Tom Kravec, W8TK, writes that he has bought a small farm near Delaware, Ohio, on the highest point in that county. Tom has volunteered the unplanted part for a MRRC field day location. Anyone interested in organizing an effort for FD? We'll talk about it at the Dayton meeting.

DX TEST:

We've been waiting for years for conditions like we had this year. Phone was super: cw not as good but still a great improvement over past years. Not many scores have come in to the Big Fish yet, but here are a few: (Phone) K8NZ (K8AZ, op) 1360/220 HiBand, WA4RLJ/8 508/162 Hi Band, K8MR 371/118 Hi Band. (CW) K8NZ 1685/285 M/S, K8MR 355/105 HiBand. WA8ZDT reports a new midwest record for M/M phone from K8LX of 3566/457. The score wasn't eligible for the club entry but Kevin says that will be corrected for next year. Remember the reporting deadline of April 17 for DX logs.

HOT FLASHES:

More antennas killed by the January blizzard include W8LT's quad; N8ET's 20 meter beam, W8TK's TH-6 & tower. W9LT had a big thrill in the CQ 160meter test - no one called LaMar W8LT. K8MR has been missing the MRRC net because of working nights. K8ND is out in the working world and beginning to accumulate radios to prove it. Out to the west of Mad River the Ill Wind Contest Club begins business, based in Chicago. Remember the April Open CD Parties, a good opportunity for some snappy contesting. K8ND took top multi-op in the CanAM - all by himself. K1KI of ARRL HQ promises to have bundles of log sheets at Dayton for you to stock up for the year. The National Contest Journal is on hold until at least June, due to personal complications for editor N6CJ.

Hope to see you all at Dayton, and I hope you will bring along lots of new Mad River members.