

Dayton Wrapup

The Dayton Hamvention 1978 is now history: general opinion was that the flea market was smaller and had very few good deals; the crowd was, as always, large; the new arrangement of the arena was a vast improvement in terms of traffic control. Everyone found something of interest.

The Mad River Radio Club meeting was held on Saturday at 3:30 PM, with a crowd of 61 present. Of those, 19 were new members and 5 were visitors. Topics discussed included the 1978 Ohio QSO Party and the problems with the 1977 version, problems of financing the club in light of the rising cost of postage for the Flash and the number of non-paying members on our mailing list, directions for the club and recruiting plans for 1978, and the possibility of changing the meeting schedule to include the Livonia (Michigan) Swapfest in February.

A summary of the actions taken by the membership is listed below:

- 1) Dues were raised from \$3/year to \$5/year.
- 2) The definition of membership was changed to require the payment of dues by all members in order to continue receiving the Flash and to be eligible to submit a score for the club. A six month phasing-in period was specified (deadline this year is November 1, 1978).
- 3) The MRRC membership voted to join the Ohio Council of Amateur Radio Clubs.
- 4) The membership unanimously approved the purchase and authorized the issuance of the "Mad River Radio Club Golden Guppy Award" to the high-scoring novice in the MRRC territory each year in the ARRL Novice Roundup.
- 5) High scorers submitting for MRRC in club competitions in SS CW, SS Phone, ARRL DX CW, ARRL DX Phone, CQWW CW, CQWW Phone, and the CQ WPX will receive club certificates.
- 6) K8ND was elected "Big Fish" for 1978-79. K8MR was applauded for his exemplary performance in 1977-78.

The Mad River Flash is the official newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club, a society of contesters in Ohio and parts of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Membership is open to those living within 175 miles of Marion, Ohio. Comments and questions should be directed to: Jeff Maass K8ND, Big Fish MRRC, 4410 Norwell Drive, Columbus Ohio 43220. Telephone (614) 451-3713. The Mad River Radio Club is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League.

The Mad River Flash
May 1978

Visions

Welcome to the following new members who were present at the 1978 Dayton meeting (* indicates dues paid):

WD8ACM *	WD8ALP *	W3AS *	WD8AUG	WD8BBQ
N8EA	K8FO *	K8GM *	WB3INS	WA3JFW
WD8KDR	W8KPL	K8LX	W9OBF *	WB8PAV
W8ROF	WA8VEC	WB8VLU	WA8ZNC	

This group represents greater than 1 million points in the 1977 Sweepstakes!

Welcome back to the following members who paid dues at the Dayton meeting:

K8AZ	N8BM	K8BPX	K8DL	N8ET
W8FN	WB8HWE	W8KIC	WD8LRV	K8LT
W9LT	K8MN	K8MR	K8MT	K8ND
K8NZ	WA8RCN	W8SWB	W8TK	K9UWA
WB8WMB	W8WPC	W8XU	WA8YEE	W3YQ
WA8ZDT				

This group represents greater than 3.5 million points in the 1977 Sweepstakes!

1977 ARRL Sweepstakes

Mad River continues to improve! The 1977 SS results give us a basis from which to analyze our current level of performance and to plan for future improvement. First, some individual kudos.

Phil, K3UA, took both cw and phone high score certificates for Mad River, with a total of 373,344 points.

Jim, K8MR, was Great Lakes Division high on CW and Mike, WB8MZZ (operating W8KIC) was Great Lakes Division high on Phone.

The WB8JEM operators (WB8DQP, WD8LRV, and WD8LSN) were the multi-single station contributing the most total points to Mad River. (Wait 'til next year. -ed.)

Each station submitting a score for the MRRC deserves recognition, and scores have been listed in previous issues of the Flash. We all get our own feeling of satisfaction from having contributed to the group effort. What can we learn from our 1977 performance? For one thing, MRRC has shown constant improvement in total score and also in average score per entry. Tables I and II show year to year variations among the top six clubs.

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Sweepstakes (Continued)

Table I
Club Competition Total Score Comparison

Club	'76 Score	'77 Score	'78 Score	77-78 Change
NCCC	9,561,630 (128)	10,884,632 (136)	11,205,572 (114)	+ 320,940 (-22)
PVRC	9,201,978 (135)	10,343,214 (154)	10,279,768 (123)	- 63,446 (-31)
YCCC	-	-	9,175,366 (108)	-
MRRC	-	3,776,318 (42)	5,027,902 (49)	+1,251,587 (+ 7)
MM	5,534,247 (76)	6,520,254 (62)	2,584,050 (25)	-3,936,204 (-37)
WIN	3,768,883 (57)	3,387,260 (49)	3,057,338 (32)	- 329,922 (-17)

Table II
Club Competition Score Per Entry Comparison

Club	76 per entry	77 per entry	78 per entry	77-78 Change
NCCC	74,700	80,034	98,294	+ 18,260
PVRC	68,163	67,163	83,575	+ 16,411
YCCC	-	-	84,957	-
MRRC	-	89,912	102,610	+ 12,698
MM	72,819	105,165	103,362	- 1,803
WIN	66,121	69,128	95,542	+ 26,414

There are a couple of footnotes to to the above tables. First, I have treated the Yankee Clipper Contest Club as a distinctly separate group from the now-defunct New England Contest Club. Much of the NECC was absorbed by the YCCC, but the organization of the clubs was vastly different.

Second, I have treated the Murphy's Mauraunders group as a continuous organization even though the club was completely re-organized between the 1977 SS and the 1978 SS. Much of the non-Hartford membership of the old group was absorbed into the YCCC and the new group has imposed more stringent membership requirements in the interest of making the new MM a more local club group. I should have delineated between old MM and current MM in the above tables, but this would have been very confusing.

Our improvement from 1977 to 1978 is heartening, but the NCCC's improved score in light of their loss of 22 entries and the improved score of PVRC in light of the loss of 31 entries worries me.

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Sweepstakes (Continued)

In looking at the statistics, our main problem seems to be one of membership. While our points-per-entry is at the top of the list (with Murphy's beating us by only 752 points per entry), our total entries falls to far far down to make us a contender. Our fourth place finish is respectable, but we'd like to be at the top. So what should we do differently this year?

- 1) Recruiting: We need more members. There are a lot of contesters out there who either don't know that we exist or don't understand why we exist. Each member should commit himself to recruit at least one new member before the Findlay meeting. If you don't know any good prospects off hand, go look at QST and pick a likely looking one from the listings or write to the Big Fish. Keep me advised of your progress.
- 2) Intra-club Competition: Mad River will issue certificates to the high scorers in several major contests.
- 3) Full Facilities Utilization: Each year we have a number of members who don't have facilities to operate and members who have fine facilities but no time. If you are not going to be using your station for one or more modes of a contest, consider lending it to a member who can help add points. If you are weak at CW but want to participate anyway, consider forming a MRRC Multi-operator effort. In short, let's not let any of our resources go unused on contest weekends.
- 4) Station Improvements: A lot of our members are new contesters or casual contesters with minimal stations. We cannot buy them all superstations, but we can help them with some of the little improvements that will add QSO's and multipliers. Why don't you sit down and tell us how well that audio filter works, or where to get 15 or 30 seconds cassette tape loops?
- 5) Operator Improvement: We can all improve. We have some excellent contesters in Mad River, and we should all learn from them. Listen to some of the experienced contesters for a while during a CD Party or the Radiosport. Others can tell us how they keep their checksheet, keep their rates up, or decide when to change bands.
- 6) Setting Goals: One way that I have found usefull for keeping in there during a long contest is to set a minimum goal for myself before the contest begins. As I reach that goal, I set a new one which looks out of reach. Murphy's Mauraunders do this as a group, by publishing their personal goals in the club newsletter. Then each member does his best to meet his self-set goal. Mad River could benefit from such a program.

These are things to ponder. Write to me and give us all some help.