

## SWEEPSTAKES RESULTS (CW)

The following are scores received as of 10 November. QSO totals in most cases are unduped. An asterisk (\*) indicates an MRC member who is not eligible to submit for the club this year.

K3UA	1205/75	180,750	KBFU	550/71	78,100
K3LR	1214/73	177,244	ACBE	502/72	72,288
KBNZ	1107/74	163,836	AABS	(A Power)	
KBMK	1076/74	159,248		362/70	50,680
KBLX	1030/75	154,500	KBDL	(A Power)	
WBLT (KLLT, OPR)				100/45	9,000
	903/74	133,644	KBAZ	90/?	
W3AS*	875/75	131,250	KBND	(MULTI-OP)	
WBTK	736/69	101,568		937/73	141,182
WDBALG (A Power)			WBXU	(MULTI-OP)	
	622/70	87,080		870/74	128,760
K8MN	570/72	82,080			

TOTAL REPORTED ELIGIBLE SCORE: 1.72 MILLION POINTS

The above 16 scores represent an average of 115,700 points-per-entry, up 13,355 points-per-entry over our last year's final result. With traditionally higher SSB scores, we should be in good shape!

Also heard in CW SS but no score received yet: WBKIC, W8WPC, N8EA, N8BM, W83VPA, W90BF, K8DDG (MULTI), W8EAUB, W88JBM, W88SVN, W88WKB and W9LT.

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PHONE SS COMING!

November 18-19 (This weekend!) is the next half of our club effort. You might be able to beg off as a less than proficient CW op, but none of you have major vocal problems. Plan to put in as much time as you can, 24 hours if possible. Every QSO and section is a significant contribution to the club total!

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CQWW DX

If you participated in the CQWW DX SSB contest, please send your score to me. Also, don't miss the CW weekend, Nov. 25-26.

## BAND AIDS

②

The following information was gleaned from the logs of several Mad River Radio Club members in the CW SS session. The sections listed were specified in the MRRC net as those least available (or most difficult to find) in the CW fracas. From this list you should get some idea of what to expect for propagation for the SSB SS weekend.

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>BAND</u>	<u>TIME (UTC)</u>	<u>CALL</u>
VE8	10	2105	VE8AW, VYLYF
KL7	15	0015	KL7AF
	10	1922	KL7AF
	20	0316	KZ5JM
KZ5	15	2239	KZ5FR
	10	1731	KZ5JM
	80	0510	VELMX
VEL	20	2247	VESDX
	10	1951	VESABL
	15	2124	VE6KW
VE6	20	2303	VE6ALD
	20	2249	WB7RJM
	15	1831	WB7VDH
UTAH	40	0815	KØFRP
	20	2139	KØFRP
	20	1832	WØ11B
	40	0748	K710
WYO	20	2122	K710
	15	2248	KØUK/7
	15	2214	KH6JTW
KH6	10	1728	KH6J
	80	0541	K3HBP
	80	0100	K3JL
DEL	20	1521	AD3V

## SS HINTS - PART 2

1. Jim, KBMR, kept track of his times off on a 3x5 file card in the format of the one on the right hand side of this page. By keeping a cumulative record in a compact form, you can better manage your six hours of off time.

(3)

TIME OFF		
0810-0825	:15	:15
1011-1411	4:00	4:15
1516-1531	:15	4:30
1837-1852	:15	4:45
1927-1942	:15	5:00
2037-2052	:15	5:15
2151-2206	:15	5:30
2305-2320	:15	5:45
0018-0033	:15	6:00

2. Note on the card at the right that Jim took no off time until 0800Z. This is good strategy to follow, as activity is extremely high during these hours. Also note that Jim took his major chunk of off time between 1011Z and 1411Z. At KBND we took a three hour block off between 1030Z and 1330Z. Informal poll reveals that these are the least valuable hours of the contest, so don't waste your valuable time on the air then. Sleep.

3. If you are running a multi-op station for the phone weekend, man a spotting receiver constantly. During the day scan the two bands (of 20, 15 and 10) not being used by the "operating" station. Don't miss those VEB's on 10 meters!

Have your full report (eg. "B KBND 7L OH") written boldly on a card and in a convenient viewing place. As fatigue and monotony build, it gets easier to "blank out" when you need that information.

If you are not conditioned to marathon phone contests, be careful not to strain your voice. It's usually not necessary to scream into the microphone, although that is the temptation. Conserve your voice, have throat lozenges/spray available, and take steps immediately if you feel your voice slipping away. 24 hours on-the-air is a long time.

## SS HINTS (CONT'D)

(4)

6. Consensus among top phone ops is that all extraneous greetings and words should be left out of the contest exchange, with one exception. Use of the word "check" before the check decreases the number of requests for repeats.
7. Minimizing physical actions and wasted time are the keys to a large score. When logging, there is no reason to log all four digits of the time. The most used system calls for logging the full 4 digits only once per hour and log the last two digits for each QSO. A variation records 4 digits once per hour and two digits only once per each ten minute period. When things really get hot, record the time only once each 5 minutes.

### VARIATION 1

1501  
02  
04  
04  
12

### VARIATION 2

1501  
2  
4  
12  
3

8. Headphones are a must for contest operation, and since you are going to have them on for hours at a time, find a set that treats you kindly. I learned after buying that the top-of-the-line Telex CM-1320 headset with boom microphone ~~one~~ is considerably less comfortable than the cheaper Telex CM-1210. They use the same microphone element. In the non-microphone variety, make sure you select headphones which cup your ear but do not sit on it. Some cheap stereo headphones, modified for mono, are perfect. I've been using the Radio Shack Nova-10's for several years and have found them very comfortable. At about \$13, they make a good investment.

# SS HINTS (CONT'D)

(5)

9. And now a long word about the use of dupe sheets. If you think that you can get through SS without one, YOU ARE WRONG! A dupe sheet is a time-saving device that pays off every time you avoid working a station twice. Anyone who works a station more than twice very quickly gains a bad reputation.

A. Make sure that every station you work is placed on the dupe sheet. This will speed up your "search and pounce" rate.

B. When calling CQ and maintaining a good rate, temporarily abandon the dupe sheet. This will place the duping burden on the other guy, but the increased rate makes up for an occasional dupe. When the rate drops, start catching up the dupe sheet. while "search and pounce"ing.

C. There are a number of methods for ~~at~~ filling in a dupe sheet. For the beginner, it is best to fill in the entire call on an ARRL form CD77 or similar checksheet. The hybrid methods come with experience, but tend to confuse the beginner, who can't remember if you circle or underline KB's.

A popular method is simply to enter the complete suffix and not ~~worry~~ worry about the prefix, on the premise that the chances of working two stations in the same call area with the same suffix is relatively low (eg KBMR and WBMR). This method is no longer suggested due to the number of 2-letter calls.

Single-sided dupe sheets are highly recommended.

## OPERATING NOTES

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Phil, K3UA, is our apparent CW high scorer with 1205/75 for 180,750 points. This represents a 24 hour average of over 50 QSO's/hour. Phil reports that his first hour rate was 90 Q's/Hour. That's an extremely fine CW first hour under any circumstances, but it should be noted that he did it without calling CQ! Don't ignore "search and pounce" for the SSB weekend.

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At KBND we discovered some equipment weaknesses. It seems that Dentron, on their MT 2000A antenna tuner, uses RG 58 A/u for the coaxial input and output lines! At high SWR, the output line got very warm and self-destructed. It is a relatively easy procedure to replace it with RG 8U.

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Here's a suggestion that I forgot to put into the "HINTS" list. To speed up tuning your rig for band changes, pre-mark each control for each band. Many top stations use a color-coded scheme which ~~reducing~~ reduces tune ups to matching colors. The easiest method is to place a small sheet of paper over the shaft of the required control and tape it to the front panel. Then tune up on each band and make a "tick" for the position on that band on the paper.

# MISC.

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## FOR SALE

One each 250 Hz and 500 Hz 8-pole crystal filter for Yaesu FT101 type equipment. \$40 each. Contact Joe, ADBI (WB8HWE).

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John, ADBJ, Regional Vice President for Central and Southern Ohio, will be moving to Pittsburgh PA effective about November 20. John will remain within MRRC territory, so we should still see some scores out of him!

John's moving, however, leaves a void in the RVP ranks. I need volunteers/nominations for his replacement. Anyone in Dayton or Cincy interested?

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## FRENCH ST. MARTIN CONTEST EXPEDITION

The Mad River Radio Club ARRL DX Contest expedition to FS7 is still on, with plenty of openings. Still undecided is whether we will go for SSB or CW, and it is still possible we might go to one of the other Carribean Islands. If you are seriously interested contact KBND or ADBJ. Cost estimated at \$500 per person.

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The Mad River Flash is the official newsletter of The Mad River Radio Club. Correspondance can be sent to: Jeff Maass, KBND, Big Fish (President) MRRC, 4410 Norwell Drive, Columbus Ohio, 43220, (614) 451-3713.