

Mad River to Meet in Livonia

As agreed to by the membership at our last Dayton meeting, the next meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be held at the Livonia (Michigan) Swapfest on Sunday February 25 at noon. MRRC will also have a table manned to explain to passers-by the goals and purpose of our club, and to recruit new members.

Discussions of the MRRC DXpedition of French St. Martin (FS7), Field Day 1979, ARRL DX Contest, WPX including the new CW version in May, station improvements for score maximization and the on-going problem of public relations will be the order of the day. We will keep administrative problems in the background in an attempt to make the meeting as interesting as possible.

Livonia Michigan is due East of Detroit and Northeast of Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti. See the enclosed map for details of finding the hamfest grounds. This is the largest hamfest held in Michigan and a perfect time to pick up things needed for station repairs/ improvements in the upcoming year. This should be a worthwhile trip for everyone!

ARRL DX Contests Coming!

It seems like only last week, but the 1979 International DX Competitions are upon us! This is the next Club Competition event that MRRC will enter, so make plans now to get in there and maximize your score.

The SSB version will be held March 3-4, and the CW half will be March 17-18. This is the first year for each mode to be only one weekend, and this should serve to increase activity by encouraging some folks who didn't feel that they should allocate four weekends to one contest to make a serious effort.

With conditions vastly improved over the last several years, 200 watts and a dipole could accomplish big things this year. Get in there and operate for a full period and submit your score to ARRL before the April 23 deadline. Don't forget to mark Mad River Radio Club as your Affiliated Club.

K8MR - CAC, Ohio !

Jim Stahl, K8MR (ex- WA3BGE), former President of Mad River, has been appointed to the American Radio Relay League's Contest Advisory Committee by ARRL President Harry Dannals. Jim represents the eighth call area, including Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia. If you have suggestions concerning ARRL Contests, contact Jim at 3592 Atherstone, Cleveland Heights Ohio 44121 or via ARRL Headquarters. We wish Jim the best of luck with his new duties.

The Mad River Flash is the official newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club (MRRC), an organization of contest-oriented Amateurs in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. Meetings are held four times a year at Hamfests in Livonia Michigan and in Ohio in Dayton, Findlay, and Warren. Comments should be sent to Jeff Maass K8ND, 4410 Norwell Drive, Columbus Ohio 43220. (614) 451-3713.

AD8J Moves

John Getz, AD8J (ex-WA4RIJ), Regional Vice President of MRRC for Central and Southern Ohio, has moved to the Pittsburgh PA area. John was very active in recruiting efforts, and conceived the MRRC DXpedition to French St. Martin. John won't be able to join us in the Caribbean due to his new job and the expense of setting up housekeeping in a new home, but the five MRRC members making the trek thank him for the idea!

John's new home is on top of a hill and is still within MRRC territory, so John remains a loyal Mad River person. We hope to see him at Dayton and Warren.

REGIONAL VP's SOUGHT

With the move of AD8J from the Central Ohio area, MRRC now has openings for two Regional Vice Presidents. John's position must be filled from someone in the Central/Southern Ohio area, extending roughly south of a line between Indianapolis and Pittsburgh. The second opening is Regional Vice President for Indiana. This latter position has been unfilled for over one year.

RVP's are those who coordinate recruiting for their regions, and handle meetings within their regions in the absence of the Big Fish. Current RVP's are Tim Duffy, K3LR, who handles NE Ohio/Pennsylvania and Mike Mettler, W8MZZ, who handles NW Ohio and Michigan.

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time or know of someone who you think would make a good officer of MRRC, please contact K8ND as soon as possible.

DEDICATION

Do you think that you are a dedicated contester? Well, Mike, W8MZZ, found himself in a bind for Phone SS. He had planned to operate from W8KIC in suburban Cleveland, but he didn't have the cash to drive his gas guzzler from the Toledo area. Instead of giving in and staying home, Mike did what any dedicated contester would do - he pawned his TR4cw! His results from W8KIC? 1496 QSO's and a sweep.

DRAKE C-LINE RUMORS

Recent rumors on-the-air indicated that the popular Drake Twins, the T4XC and R4C, had been or were soon to be discontinued. As my TS-820S had recently gone up in smoke, I decided to feel out the market a bit. Stories from dealers ranged from, "They are producing no more C-Lines" to "No problem, they'll never drop the C-Line."

So I called Drake to see if I could get the true story. It seems that production was suspended for a while, and that was probably the source of the morbid rumors. There has been a phenomenal backlog of TR-7 orders, and they were trying to catch up. Some orders were backed up as much as 12-14 months.

There were no current plans, however, to discontinue C-Line production (this as of mid-December), but the person I spoke to would not discount the possibility of this happening sometime soon. So if you plan to move up to a C-Line, you should check now with Drake and confirm that they will be available when you are ready.

FIELD DAY 1979

Field Day is coming! June 23 and 24 will be the dates for MRRC's first FD operation as a club. Tom W8TK has graciously offered us the use of his new farm at the highest point in Delaware County (North of Columbus).

The object is to make a splash in class 2A, and to do it we need some serious operators who are interested in working to make FD for MRRC a winning proposition. In line with this goal, we are leaning toward a serious CW effort, with phone used only when necessary to pick up the high rates and QSO's possible. Remember, CW contacts are worth twice as many points as those on phone.

What we need now are operator commitments and promises of some equipment- notably towers and antennas. We would like to man an effective Novice/Technician station for the full period, as that is a free station.

If you would like to be a part of the 1979 MRRC FD effort, contact K8ND and let us know. We may not be able to take top spot with all the KW stations and fixed operations claiming to be 200 watt portables, but we can certainly gain the satisfaction of running a competitive and honest 2A effort. See the enclosed map on the opposite side of this sheet to see where Tom's place is. See you on Field Day!

FOR SALE:

8-pole crystal filters for FT-101 series transceivers. One 500 Hz, one 250 Hz. \$ 40 each. Contact Joe Subich, AD8I, Box 7825 State Route 188, Circleville Ohio 43113.

CQ WPX CONTESTS ADD CW

The 23rd annual CQ World Wide WPX Contest will include a CW portion for the first time this year in response to overwhelming pressure for the last few years. WPX is traditionally high on the list of DX-supported contests, with many otherwise unavailable countries and prefixes activated for the contest period.

This year's fracas will be split by two months- SSB on March 24-25 and CW on May 26-27. Note that SSB is the weekend after ARRL DX CW. You can choose, as a single operator entry, to specialize on a single band or go all band, operating for 30 out of the 48 hour period. Multi operator entries are (of course) discriminated against and can only choose to go all band.

Mad River will submit a club score for WPX, so make sure that you get on and take advantage of the super conditions, if only for the new countries involved.

The summary sheet used for WPX (available from CQ, 14 Vanderverter Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050) do not include a line for specifying your affiliated club, so make sure that you write it in clearly under the "Remarks" heading.

Full rules may be found in CQ, January 1979, pp. 82-83. It is also a good idea to send now for the rules used to determine the prefix of a station (for multipliers). These are available from K6XP. Please note: those of you with 2X1 calls (AD8I, etc.) may find that you are a rare, sought after prefix - only 26 of each prefix in the world!

MAD RIVER ST. MARTIN TRIP

Five members of the Mad River Radio Club will trek to French St. Martin (FS7) for seven days of fun in the sun and casual and contest operation. On March 13, WD8ALG, K8BPX, K8MR, K8ND, and K8OCL will depart the cold climes of 8-land and make for the beautiful island 150 miles east of Puerto Rico.

Plans call for one station to be operational on the evening of the 13th, with the majority of the antennas going up on Wednesday. Casual operation will continue until the weekend, when operation of the ARRL DX CW Contest will begin in earnest. Plans are to operate 160-10 meters as a multi-op, single transmitter entry.

If you have ever worked PJ8CO in a contest (who hasn't, on at least five bands?) you will have some idea of the propagation from the island, as PJ8CO is on the southern part of the same island, which is Dutch. We will be able to run only 100 watts, since the French limit us to that, while 'CO runs a legal KW, but we should still have a respectable signal, and should be the only FS7 on the air.

Station equipment will be a Drake/Sherwood C-Line, TS-820S, and FT-301. Antennas will include two trap verticals (4BTV and 18AVT/WB) and a tribander at about 35-40 feet. We will be operating from the Marina Grande Case, which is located on the Northwest shore of the island, which will give us a clear shot at the U.S.

The one detail that has not yet been cleared up yet is the license. Our applications, which must be processed through Paris and the French PTT, have not yet yielded a call. Suggested expediting techniques have recently been taken, and hopefully the call will arrive in the next couple of weeks. Expected calls are FGOND/FS7 and FGOMR/FS7, but there is no guarantee that we will be issued the calls of our choice. KLMM was able to get FGOMM/FS7, so we are hopeful. By the way, Amateur Radio for St. Martin is locally regulated from the island of Guadeloup (FG), and licenses for St. Martin are only issued as FGO/FS or FG7/FS, with the FG7's for natives and FGO's for reciprocal licenses. If you work someone with the call FS7xx, he is probably a boot-legger!

We will give a report on our operation at the Dayton Hamvention meeting of Mad River, and we'll probably have a slide show available the night before at the Sharaton.

It should be noted that the five members who are making the trip are paying their own way. No money is being taken from the club treasury, so let's have no outraged outcries!

We are in the process of planning some "private" schedules for Mad River members and freinds who may need FS7 for 5BDXCC or DXCC. The schedule of these contacts will be sent to the appropriate persons as soon as they have been determined and agreed to by the participants. For general, casual (non-contest) operations, we will try to hang 5 KHz above the extra class CW sub-band on CW, and we will spend some time in the Novice bands. Our phone "suggested" frequencies will be included in our schedule letter. At all times, the operator may disregard the "suggested" list and use his own judgement, so if we are on 7015 KHz, don't sue us!

See you all in the ARRL DX Contest!

STATIONS

- K8MR - Jim's Alpha 76A amplifier finally arrived, and was first put to good use in CQWW Phone. Other accessories include a TS-820S, and outside are a TH6Dxx at 60 feet, 80/40 dipoles at 55 feet, 40 dipole at 75 feet, a shunt-fed tower for 160, and 22 elements on 2 meters.
- K8ND - The "Travelling Road Show" has drastically changed complexion, with the trusty TS-820S busting a gut (transformer) 10 minutes before CW SS. It has been traded for a C-Line (in time for Phone SS), which has had the Sherwood 600 Hz first IF filter installed for CW. Still no antennas at home for contesting, so I'm still looking for loner stations.
- AD8I - Joe has also moved up to a C-line, dumping his FT-101. Amplifier is a Yaesu FL2100B, and outside at about 60 feet are a TA-36, 2L40, dipoles for 80 and 40 and a four band vertical. Big plans are in the offing, as K8ND pitches in to begin erection of a 100 foot tower with K1M 4 element 40 meter monster. Joe is in the country, and some long beverage receiving antennas will round out the complement.
- W8TK - Tom is in the enviable position (well, maybe not) of having too much equipment and too little time to use it. Here's the list he gave me.

Two (2) Triton IV's
 ICOM IC-701
 Several memory keyer (Brown and Simpson, W7BBX, etc.)
 "A dozen" paddles, including an original W8FYO
 Alpha 374 amplifier
 Alpha 77S amplifier
 HAL keyboard
 SB-303
 Morse and RTTY video equipment
 A dozen antenna tuners
 a 190 foot center fed wire up 80 feet
 A 2 element triband quad up 56 feet

He recently purchased a farm at the highest point in Delaware County, just North of Columbus, and plans to put up antennas there. (Boy, I wish I had that! -ed.)

- K1LT +
 WB8TXE - Vic and Cathy will be getting married in April, and should form a respectable station. Cathy received a TR-7 from Vic, which certainly is a good start. Add that to the list previously given.

SEND ME STUFF

For this newsletter to be interesting, I must have your input. Whatever you are doing to make your station more effective (or things that you have done that have made it less effective), write to me and share them with other MRRC members. Our strength lies in the diversity of our membership and our common experiences.

APOLOGY

I've been promising this edition of the Flash for some time now, and I'm sorry that it has taken this long to get it to you. My only excuse is that I've let my work and my planning for the St. Martin trip take precedence over getting out this newsletter at regular intervals.

I hope that this edition will fill in the void of the last couple of months, and I promise to get you at least one Flash a month from this point on. I do have two problems: I am a lousy typist (a slow one, too) and I do not have regular access to an inexpensive copy facility. Add to that my loss of facilities to print mailing labels, and you can conclude that I can use all the help that I can get. Any volunteers?

National Contest Journal

The National Contest Journal is published six times a year, and is the best source of information for the contester who wants to stay on top of nationwide happenings. The NCJ is available for \$5.00 annually, to be sent to P.O. Box 3762, Glendale California 91201.

In addition to the six normal issues, they have put together, with the aid of Tom, K5RC/WA5LES, a Who's Who Cross Reference Issue. This handy book cross references 1425 new two letter calls to their owners' previous calls, and it does it in three different ways.

Sweepstakes High Claimed Scores

QST is having difficulty finding space for high claimed scores, and now the NCJ is printing them as supplied by K1KI. The January-February issue of the NCJ has these scores for the 1978 SS.

For the CW- single op category, the following MRRC calls (and their position in the list) are found: K3UA, 3rd; K3LR, 11th; K8NZ, 32nd; K8MR, 43rd; W8WPC, 48th.

For CW- multi-single: W8JEM, 4th; K8ND, 5th; W8XU, 8th.

For SSB- single op: K3UA, 36th; K8LX, 37th; W9RE, 38th; W8KIC, 42nd; K8AZ, 48th; K8MR, 49th.

For SSB- multi-single: None.

Congratulations to all. Next year, let's see if we can get half of our club into the high-claimed score list.

N8ET/G5CMX NOTES

Bill Kelsey, N8ET/G5CMX, writes that he received a note in response to his inquiry from Bernie Welch, W8IMZ, concerning his eligibility to submit scores for Mad River in CQ contests. CQ contests do not define geographical limits for Club Competitions, but specify that the club must be "local" in nature. They also include DXpeditions organized for the club effort and operated by club members.

In the spirit of this latter rule, Bill may submit his scores in CQ contests only if he operates outside of England. Bill says that EI9CB is always available, and that a GW operation is a possibility.

Any MRRC member who'd like to chat with Bill, he keeps a sked with Findlay freinds on Saturdays and Sundays at about 1500Z on 28.7. Bill reports that propagation has been excellent. His antenna is a five element K1M in his attic!

Dayton 1979

The Dayton Hamvention is coming! April 27-29 are the dates for this year's bash, with all of the attendant sellers, exhibits, and good deals. Now is the time to plan your station improvements and make a list of items that you need. Then assure that you'll have the necessary funds when the time comes.

Mad River examined the possibility of hosting a contest suite this year, but the available rooms had been snapped up ahead of us. So plan to enjoy the hospitality of the YCCC Friday night and don't miss the Mad River meeting, date and time to be announced later. We will be following the "make it interesting" meeting plan, with slides of the St. Martin trip expected. We want this to be our biggest recruiting year ever, so plan to bring a freind. If Mad River is to grow in score, we must grow in membership and enthusiasm.

What about a DXpedition for next year? Does Cyprus appeal to you? How about a second trip to St. Martin for WPX in 1980? There are several desireable islands in the Carribean that lend themselves to contest efforts. Every Amateur would like to take a DXpedition at sometime in his life, and usually the only thing holding them back is the expense of planning such a trip. Do you have any ideas for economy trips, planned as a group by Mad River?

Many things are possible for Mad River, but we need the direction that must be obtained by membership input, and that must come at each of our four meetings in 1979. Dayton is our largest meeting; let's make it larger this year than ever before.

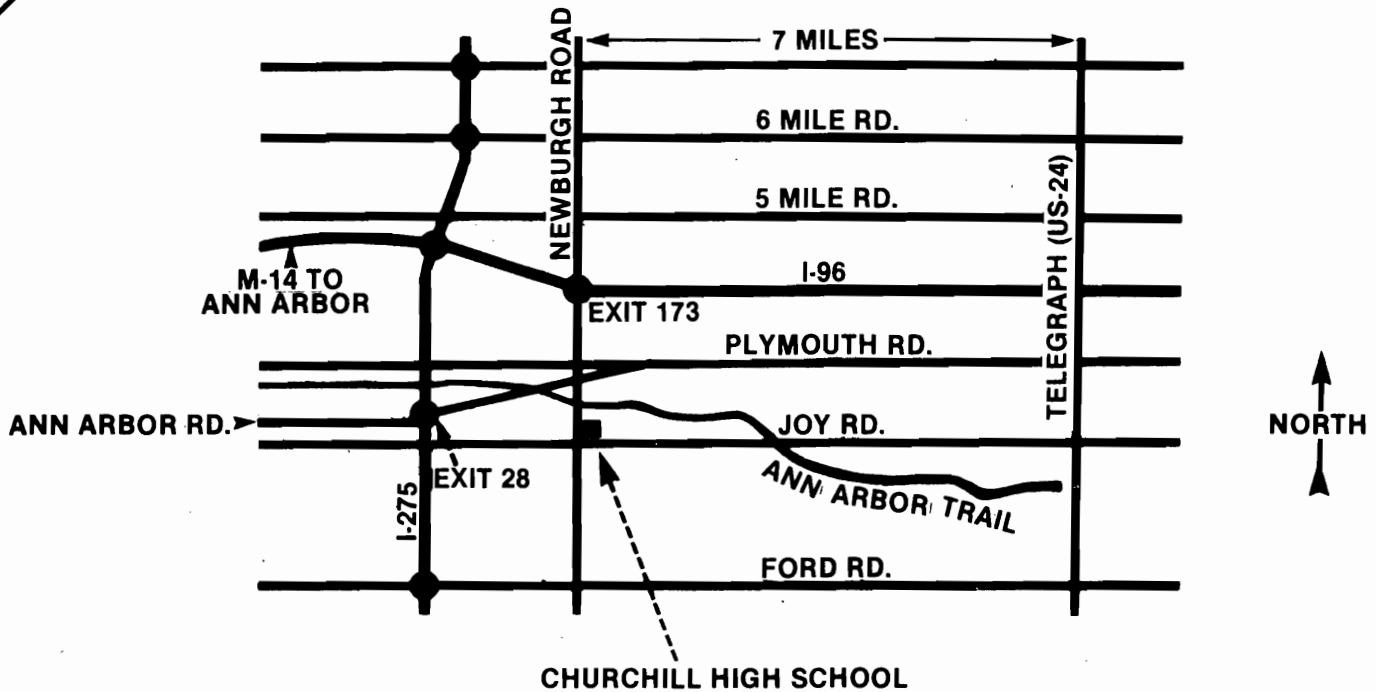
If you have ideas for activities at meetings, matters to be included in the Flash, suggestions on score improvement or whatever, please write to me and bring them up at one of our meetings. Make plans to attend 3 or 4 meetings in 1979 instead of just two. When you go, take others who otherwise might not go. We have selected our meeting hamfests to include some excellent events, so the meeting need not be your only incentive.

If you cannot make Livonia on the 25th, let's begin on March 27-29 at Dayton to mold Mad River into the kind of club that can give a scare to the East and West Coast dynasties!

**2-METER TALK-IN
K8UNS**

Livonia Swapfest
Mad River Radio Club Meeting at noon.

NEW LOCATION CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL



**I-96—Exit 173A Newburgh Road,
South on Newburgh Road 2 Miles**

**I-275—Exit 28 Ann Arbor Road,
East on Ann Arbor Road 1 Mile,
Turn Right on Ann Arbor Trail,
Turn Right on Newburgh Road**

**Approximately...
5 Miles South of Last Year's Swap**

**Reserved Table Space Available
12 Foot Minimum**

**For Further Information,
Send S.A.S.E. to Neil Coffin
WA8GWL, c/o L.A.R.C.,
P.O. Box 2111, Livonia, MI 48151**

MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB
French St. Martin (FS7) Expedition
March 13-20, 1979

The Mad River Radio Club of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Indiana will sponsor a contest expedition to the island of Saint Martin for the CW weekend of the ARRL International DX Contest.

Operators will be Jeff Clarke WD8ALG, Jim Stahl K8MR, Dave Reinhart K8BPX, John Champa K8OCL, and Jeff Maass K8ND. The expected call is FGOND/FS7, with FGOMR/FS7 an expected second call.

Operating frequencies for non-contest periods will be approximately as shown below. The operator will use his own judgement. Some emphasis will be placed on working people in the General Class phone bands and in the Novice bands. In the table below, two frequencies separated by a slash (/) indicates split frequency operation (e.g. 7.090/7.230 indicates that we will transmit on 7.090 MHz and listen on 7.230 MHz.)

NON-CONTEST OPERATING FREQUENCIES

BAND	CW FREQUENCIES	SSB FREQUENCIES
160 *	1.827/1.805-1.810	1.827/1.805-1.810
80	3.530, Novice 3.710	3.790, 3.770/3.910
40	7.030, Novice 7.099/7.101	7.090/7.230
20	14.030	14.205, 14.305
15	21.030, Novice 21.110	21.305 and up
10	28.030, Novice 28.110	28.600

* It is not yet certain that we will be permitted to operate on 160 meters. We will give details on-the-air after we arrive.

All QSL's should be sent to John Champa K8OCL, 5360 Edgeview Road, Columbus Ohio 43207 unless you are otherwise instructed. SASE required.

In an unrelated operation, Terry Appleton W4GSM/FGODYM will be operational from the island beginning March 16 and continuing through the WPX contest on March 24-25. He will not be active for the ARRL DX Contest weekend. If you miss us, you should be able to catch him.

We would like to thank the following people for their invaluable aid in making this trip possible: Mort Bardfield W1UQ/FGODDB, Alain Rochemont FG7AR/FS7, Bruno Hodge FG7AL/FS7, Terry Appleton W4GSM/FGODYM, John Getz AD8J, and Miriam Johnson of the St. Martin Assistance Service.