

# Mad River Flash

June/July 1982 newsletter of the MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT: Dave Pruett KBCC  
33136 Hampshire Rd.  
Livonia, Mich. 48154  
(313) 425-8296

TREASURER: Ron Harps KBNZ  
8321 Edgewood Rd.  
Mentor, Ohio 44060  
(216) 255-7205

ABOUT THIS ISSUE-This is the first edition of the Flash for the 1982/1983 contest season. It has been sent to you because you fit into one of the following categories:

- 1) You are currently a member of MRRC.
- 2) You were formerly a member of MRRC.
- 3) Club records indicate that at some time in the past you expressed an interest in MRRC.

The Mad River Radio Club is a group of amateurs interested in contests and contest operating. Our membership area is centered on Marion, Ohio and extends north to Michigan and south to Kentucky; west to Indiana and east to Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Though most of our members live in Ohio, we are not an Ohio-only club.

The Mad River Radio Club exists to provide camaraderie, assistance and encouragement between contesters in our area. We have four official meetings per year, most of which take place at major hamfests. Our dues are \$5 per year, for which you will receive a Mad River Flash bi-monthly (at least while I am editor) and belong to a great bunch of hams with similar interests. To all who have paid their dues, WELCOME ABOARD! To everyone else, what are you waiting for?

Dues will be due at the first meeting of the season, which will be at the NDARSFEST in July. Dues paid at that time (or preferably before) will ensure receipt of the August/September Flash. Treasurer KBNZ informs me that the following have paid their bucks already:

AD8P

KBCC

W8UA

N2MA/3

K8EM

W8RRR

N8DET

K8LX

W8IJP

K8ND

K88S

MRRC WEEKLY SKED-This is a reminder for members and non-members that the club meets informally Monday nights at 8:30 eastern time on 3825 kHz to discuss contesting and related topics. All are welcome.

## EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

IDEAS TO IMPROVE MAD RIVER-You may have noticed that this issue of the Flash looks a bit different compared to what we have been used to in the past. This is due to a new editor/president that is blessed with a small word processing system to use in producing the Flash. For you computer types, the system here is a modified OSI Challenger 1P w/16K and an Epson MX80 printer running somewhat rudimentary text editing software in Basic. No disks, no CP/M, just cheap and simple- but it gets the job done. We plan to publish the Flash every other month so that issues will be out preceding Findlay, CQWW/SS, Christmas, ARRL DX and Dayton.

Recently, there has been some discussion within the MRRC executive committee (KBNZ & myself) on how to improve the club. We feel that a club must provide services and activities for its members if it is going to attract membership and participation. In the past, Mad River has often fell short of this goal, and has seen enthusiasm decline as a result. Our mailing list for this issue has almost seventy calls on it, yet we had only thirty entries (on two modes even) in SS. We have ideas for four areas which we feel would improve Mad River to promote increased membership and activity. The first two are areas for increased effort on the part of the MRRC officers. The last two will be for membership opinion to decide at the July meeting at NOARSFEST.

1. IMPROVE THE FLASH-As already stated we are going to publish the newsletter bi-monthly instead of quarterly, and to improve the content of its material. This is going to require more input and articles from club members for publication unless you want to get nothing but K8CC verbage.
2. BETTER MEETING PROGRAMS-No more meetings in the bleachers and no more take-the-attendance-and-run meetings. The K8MR Christmas/New Year's Party has its own content and style, which leaves three meetings per year to test our imagination.
3. ADDITIONAL CLUB OFFICERS-MRRC has been essentially a one man operation since its beginning. This requires that the club president devote a large amount of time to running the club and editing the Flash, and also makes club success somewhat dependant on him being able to do so. On the other hand, we don't need a top heavy organization. An experiment with regional vice presidents met with less than amazing success in 1978. What we would like to do is add two additional officers, to be chosen by the membership. A NEWSLETTER EDITOR be responsible for producing the Flash, and an ACTIVITIES MANAGER would be responsible for planning the meetings and making arrangements with hamfest sponsors for a meeting location. With these tasks no longer his responsibility, the president can better devote what time and energy in directing club efforts and business as well as working with the other officers.
4. HOLD ONE ON-THE-AIR MEETING PER MONTH-We propose that on the first Monday nite sked per month, the first 30 minutes be used as a regular monthly meeting for the club. Conducted by the president or other club officer, this meeting would serve to focus and promote club participation.

We hope that you will give these ideas some thought. Plan to make the July meeting to express your ideas. Ron and I feel that what steps we take this year will have a big effect on the direction MRRC goes in the future. And don't forget to send me some stuff for the next Flash.

13's  
Dan K8CC

# TRI-BANDER MYSTERIES SORTED AND SOLVED

In nine out of ten amateur radio stations, the antenna installation is a compromise to fit within the constraints of budget and lot size. The tri-band beam has much to offer the contester. It is usually up in the clear as compared to the usual dipole, and is resonant as opposed to random wires, G5RV's, etc. The performance improvement is usually very marked, to the point that one can get by rather well while using a kW, even in a DX contest.

But all tribanders are compromises, so how is one to know which one to buy? Mechanical integrity and ruggedness can be determined by talking to other hams or by inspection at your local radio store. But which is best in terms of performance?

Printed below is a chart listing twenty-six popular tri-band yagis and quads. The antennas were tested against a reference 3 element monoband yagi (gain=9.8 dBd) using a calibrated audio-VU meter technique as in N6NB's article in the October 1977 QST.

	ANTENNA	EL	BOOM	ADVERTISED GAIN	MEASURED GAIN		
					10	15	20
1	KLM KT34XA	6	32	9-11	10.4	10.1	9.8
2	Wilson 40	10	26	10-12	10.3	10.2	9.8
3	Telrex TB6EM	6	26	10	10.3	9.8	9.6
4	TET 3F37DX	7	25	8.5-10	10.0	9.6	9.5
5	Wilson 36	6	24	9	10.1	9.4	9.0
5	Hygain TH6DXX	6	24	8.7	10.0	9.5	9.0
5	Mosley TA36	6	24	8.9	10.0	9.4	9.1
6	TET HB43SP	4	20	10-11	9.7	9.2	8.9
7	Mosley CL33	3	18	8	9.6	9.0	8.5
8	Telrex TB5EM	5	18	8.5	9.5	9.0	8.7
8	Hygain TH5DX	5	18	8.5	9.3	9.1	8.9
9	Cushcraft ATB34	4	18	8.9	9.1	8.9	8.8
10	TET 3F35DX	5	17	8-8.5	8.9	8.6	8.3
11	Hustler 3TBA	3	16	8	8.6	8.4	8.1
12	KLM KT34	4	16	7	8.6	8.3	8.3
13	Wilson 33	3	14	8	8.4	8.1	8.0
14	Cushcraft A3	3	14	8	8.3	8.0	7.8
14	Hygain TH3mk3	3	14	8	8.3	8.1	7.8
15	TET HB33SP	2	13	8.5-10	8.0	7.9	7.4
1	Cubex MK3 PTD4W	4	30	10.9	10.1	9.8	9.5
2	Kirk 1324	4	24	10	9.9	9.3	9.2
2	Cubex MK3 PTD4	4	24	9.9	9.9	9.4	9.1
3	Gem-Quad 4 el	4	13	9.9	9.8	9.5	9.2
4	Skylane 4 el	4	20	12	9.2	8.9	8.9
5	Hygain Hy-Quad	2	8	8.5	9.0	8.4	8.6
6	Gotham 2 el	2	10	n/a	9.1	8.3	8.4

Before using the chart, perhaps a few caveats are in order. The gain figures shown have been referenced to a 3 el monobander which was believed to have a gain of 9.8 dBd. Anyone who has modeled antennas on a computer can tell you that there probably isn't a 3 el yagi on the face of this earth with 9.8 dBd of real antenna gain. As a result of this error, the gain figures for the tested antennas are probably a bit optimistic, but this really doesn't really impair the usefulness of the chart. Compare gain figures between beams; since both had the same reference, the relative gains should be valid.



\* \* \* MAD RIVER NEWS \* \* \*

NEXT MRRC MEETING-The next Mad River Radio Club meeting will be held at the NOARSFEST in Lorain, Ohio on July 24, 1982. Meeting place and time are to be determined and will be announced on the Monday Nite Sked. The meeting will feature a discussion on proposals to improve our club and a smorgasborg slide show. All members are asked to bring at least one slide of their station and one slide of their antennas for review. Big or small, modest or huge, its always interesting to see how the other guy does it. No VP2 slides allowed.

DAYTON MRRC MEETING-The Annual Dayton MRRC meeting was held at noon Saturday April 24, 1982 in the Hara Arena bleachers opposite the R.L. Drake exhibit (go Drake!-ed.) with 30 hams in attendance. Election of officers was held with Dave Pruett KBCC elected 'Big Fish' for 1982/83 and perpetual treasurer Ron Harps KBNZ given a vote of confidence for another year. Mike K8US made a point to thank MRRC for helping NOARS in the CQ WPX club competition and mentioned that it might be possible for NOARS to reciprocate and give us a hand in SS. The 1982/83 meeting schedule was discussed and voted upon as follows:

July 1982	NOARSFEST-Lorain, Ohio
Sept 1982	Findlay Hamfest-Findlay, Ohio
Dec 1982	K8MR Christmas/New Years Party Cleveland, Ohio
April 1983	Dayton Hamfest-Dayton, Ohio

CW WPX CONTEST-The CQWW WPX CW Contest held over memorial day weekend experienced poor condx the entire weekend. MRRC efforts included K3LR (S/O), KBNA(20M), KBNZ (M/S+WB8WTS, KQ8M, K8MR), KBND(M/S+AD8I, KUBE) and the M/M crew at WB8DQP signing KQ8M. Well done to one and all.

FIELD DAY EFFORTS-K3LR & company (1st in 3A last year) is going at it again this year from WPA. This year the entire operating crew are MRRC members. Participating will be K3LR, K8MR, KBCC, K8AZ, KBNZ, WABRRR & W8UA. GO MAD RIVER!

UPCOMING CONTESTS-VHF QSO PARTY June 12-14, 1982  
(rules MAY 82 QST p.80)  
ARRL FIELD DAY June 26-27, 1982  
(rules MAY 82 QST p.81)  
IARU Radiosport July 10-11, 1982  
(rules MAY 82 QST p.82)

MRRC RATE SHEET-The last sheet of this issue contains the new MRRC Rate Sheet which has been adapted from the YCCC rate sheet which many fellows use. A rate sheet can yield much valuable information which can be used to evaluate performance and plan for next year. If you like our design, then use it. If you come up with an improvement, let us know about it so we can incorporate the change in version 2.0.

# MRRRC

RATE SHEET

19 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ SSB

☐ CW

☐ S/O

☐ M/S

☐ M/M

CALL \_\_\_\_\_ OPERATORS \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ QSO's \_\_\_\_\_ MULTIPLIER \_\_\_\_\_

160	80	40	20	15	10	RATE	TOTAL	Z	160	80	40	20	15	10	RATE	TOTAL
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COMMENTS

TOTAL Q's

DUPES

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TIME

RATE