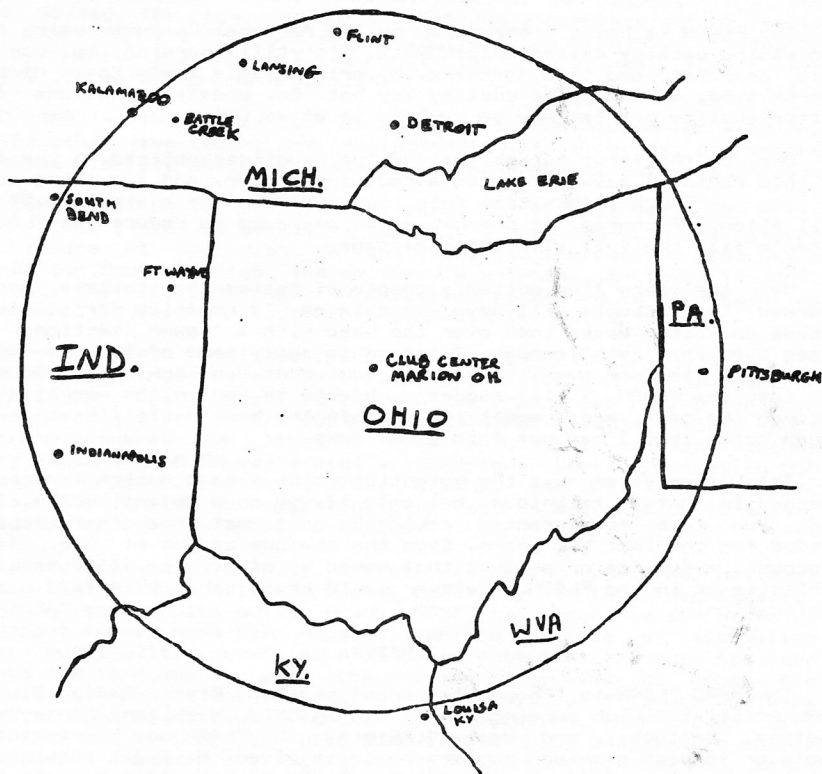


MAD RIVER FLASH

The Newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club



MAD RIVER COUNTRY!

Volume VIII #3

November 1982

PARTY PARTY MEETING PARTY PARTY

The tentative date for the 6th Annual KBMR Christmas/New Years Party and MRRC Meeting is Thursday, December 30. This assumes that most places will be closed on the 31st. If this is not the case, stay tuned for further details.

Rotor Wiring Hint
Jim Stahl KBMR

Many years ago, as a freshman at WBEDU*, I learned a neat little trick for wiring antenna rotors. It's so simple that I assumed that the whole world knew about it! I found out otherwise at the last K3LR Field Day. This trick is to wire your rotators by the standard resistor color code. If all wires are the same size, black goes to pin 1, brown to 2, red to 3, etc. In the case of Belden 8448 and Ham-M series rotators, with the heavy motor leads on pins 1 and 2, the order would be black (one of the heavy ones) to pin 1 and red (the other heavy one) to pin 2 and then pick up the brown on 3, orange on 4, etc.

I've found this system much easier and foolproof than trying to remember the control box wires I looked at back in the shack, trying to find the paper I wrote it all down on, or yelling down the tower. When adopted, the system is also quite helpful when different people have to do the work, whether at the home station, at Field Day, or on a DXpedition.

Relays For Sale

A catalog for a company called Semiconductors Surplus arrived recently with some surprises. They have available TRANSICO RF relays, including two models that I am familiar with: type 11300 (SPDT, 28 VDC coil, N-connectors) at \$40 and type 14100 (SP4T, 28 VDC, N-connectors) at \$45. These are very nice RF relays, designed for use up to 11 GHz (!) at HF they will handle 10 KW with 0.05 dB insertion loss, VSWR of 1.05:1 and isolation of about 75 dB (100 dB for the type 14100). At the KBND/ADB1 station, we have been using this type of relay to switch stations and antennas for a few years now, and they have performed quite well.

Semiconductors Surplus lists several other TRANSICO and Amphenol RF relays that I'm not familiar with, as well as capacitors, connectors, IC's, inductors, etc. You can contact them at 2822 No. 32nd St. Unit 1, Phoenix, AZ 85008. Telephone: (602) 956-9423. TRANSICO can be contacted at 4241 Glencoe Avenue, Venice CA 90291. Phone: (213) 822-0800.

* Long, long ago - ed.

Jim Stahl, KBMR, ARRL Contest Advisory Committee
CAC Happenings

By the time that you receive this copy of the FLASH the voting should be all over and perhaps the results public, but the CAC has taken a vote on the question of Multi-Op categories in the DX contest. Specifically, the questions were: limiting multi-single stations to one transmitter (eliminating the multiplier station); adding a two-transmitter multi-multi category; and changes in the ten-minute band change rule. I suspect that the first two will pass, and I don't know about the third. Any changes will be effective for this coming year's contest. (Late note: Jim has passed on that the two-transmitter multi-multi category has been officially added for the ARRL DX Contests, and the multiplier station for multi-singles has been removed. Get those additional feedlines run!)

Scheduled for vote at year's end are the questions of double points for CW QSOs in the 10 Meter Contest and of separate multiplier status for the District of Columbia. I had hoped that the 10 Meter question would have been settled (in favor) in time for this year's event, but with the midyear change in CAC structure, such was not to happen!

DX Gossip From KBMR

WB1Q will be returning to the USA permanently in the summer of 1983 after four years in TJ-land. He was unable to get licensed during his stay, but was actively sending SWL reports from that country.

WANTED/FOR SALE LISTINGS

Wanted: 80 feet of Rohn 45, to allow the expansion of the KBND station. Contact Ron at 8321 Edgewood Road, Mentor OH, (216) 255-7205.

Wanted: 70 feet aluminum tower (14-inch triangle) for export to Argentina. Also need 90 feet Rohn 25 for expansion at ADB1/KBND. Contact KBND c/o the FLASH.

For Sale: 450 IRC's at \$0.40 each (+ postage) in lots of 50 or more.

SPECIAL NOTE: TOWER POOL

It has come to our attention that Bob, KBND, erected a new 120-foot tower over the COMW SSB weekend, and that he followed his tradition of using rope to guy said tower (actually, he has phillistran for the top set, and rope for the rest). This publication will accept bets as to the month and year that the tower will twist itself to death. Partial collapse is not sufficient to justify payment.

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FLASHES of Inspirations: Editorial Ramblings

Jeff Maass KBND

The first attempt of anything is seldom the best that it can be. We all get better with practice; this is true in newsletter editing as well as in contesting. So treat this first effort as my learning experience.

The FLASH is being prepared on my IBM Personal Computer using a word processing package called EDIX+WORDIX. I'm still learning to use both this computer and this software. My printer is a lowly Epson MX-80 dot matrix type, so the print quality may not be great; donations for a letter-quality printer may be sent to me at my CBA.

One of the first things that you've doubtless noticed is the format of this FLASH. I have access to a reducing copier, and I'm going to try to jam as much information into the newsletter as a single \$.20 stamp will allow. Of course, it doesn't do me any good to reduce the FLASH if I can't fill the full allocation of pages.

Over the years I've edited a couple of Amateur newsletters, and I've learned that people will never send in any information for publication unless an editor beats them over the head with a tower section; sometimes even that isn't enough. I intend to apply some of the arm-twisting that I've learned over the years to get what you know out of your head and into the FLASH. I will suggest subjects to you on the weekly net or through the mail, and I won't let you off the hook until I have at least rough notes that I can put into final form.

This newsletter has the potential to be a good outlet for creative changes in contest technique, but only if you open up and write. Ideas that you take for granted could be just what some other member has needed for the last few years. Even the obvious can be of use. If you discover a service or product that would be of service, I'll be glad to publicize it in the FLASH. Whatever could be of service is fair game for publication.

The MRRC FLASH is the newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club serving contesters in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The FLASH may be reprinted in whole or in part provided proper credit is given. Mail all inquiries or submissions to: Jeff Maass, KBND, FLASH Editor, 4410 Norwell Drive, Columbus Ohio 43220. Telephone: (614) 451-3713, 6 PM to 10:30 PM EST. Join us weekly on Mondays, 8:30 PM Eastern, on approximately 3.825 MHz.

TRAVELS IN TEXAS

Dave Pruett KBCC/5

I recently traveled to Houston Texas for the West Gulf Division Convention, which featured contest and DX forums by the Texas DX Society. In addition to meeting many familiar W5 contesters, I took the opportunity to visit some of the Texas 'Big Gun' stations in Houston and Dallas. Spy-photo slides will be shown at the KBMR party in December, but here is a summary.

N5JJ - Dave is a member of the Busick family who are the proprietors of Madison Electronics in Houston, and has four towers ranging from 40 to 120 feet. Antennas include: 2L quad at 40'; 6L KLM 10M at 70'; 4L 15M yagi at 55'; Classic 36 at 55'; 204BA at 120'; 2L 40M yagi at 70'; and wires for 80/160. The rigs are four C-lines and a complete set of little Alphas: two 76PA's, a 374, and a 78. I noticed one Alpha was sitting on top of a Henry 2K. When asked what the Henry was for, Dave replied, "...it holds up the Alpha...".

K5RC/K5GA - Tom's station is on a small subdivision lot with one tower. The other five towers are located on the five acres of vacant land behind his lot, which he leases for that purpose. Antennas include (all yagis) 10M; 6L at 80'+7L at 80'; 15M; 6L at 70' + 5L at 90'; 20M; 5L at 120' + 4L at 60'; 40M; 3L at 140' + 4L at 70'; 80M; two 4L quads strung between towers at 100' (on JA and EU); 160M; wires. He also has a Classic-33 for South America. Inside there's a C-Line, S-Line, TS-830S, SB220, and two little Alphas. This station is slated to be dismantled next summer to be incorporated into the NASR multi-multi.

N5AU - "America's Multi-Multi Contest Station" (their quote). How does one adequately describe TWENTY-FOUR towers? 10M and 15M have broad-side collinear yagi arrays to EU & JA (70') plus two rotary yagis on separate towers (70' to 100'). 20M has a 5L Telrex (120') & 205BA (80') on separate towers; 40M likewise with a 3L Telrex on each. Various auxiliary beams and 6M/2M yagis plus a three-tower vertical array on 80M round out the arsenal. Inside: C-Line, S-Line, and FT107's with L7, Alpha 76 & 77 finals. Six operating positions in a custom-built shack, all just 30 minutes from downtown Dallas.

The Texas guys don't seem to believe in doing anything halfway: while at the TDXS Hospitality Suite, K5RC revealed the blueprints for the NASR/K5RC super multi-multi. Grady, NASR, has purchased six acres of land adjacent to his home near Houston, for the purpose of assembling the best multi-multi possible. A 24 by 60 foot trailer house has been moved onto the land and equipped with 400 amp AC service to house the station. Grady bought out the entire antenna system of powerhouse W7KW at a cost of some 10 kilobucks for use at the station. This season will be a building and testing year with some single op by Grady. Next summer the K5RC/K5GA antennas will be moved the NASR. Come October '83, watch out!

FOR SALE

The Anguilla Contest Utilities
96K and 128K Sweepstakes Log Processors
(For the IBM Personal Computer)

The ACU Sweepstakes Log Processors are post-contest utilities for the IBM Personal Computer which make time spent on post-SS paperwork more productive and less tedious. QSO data from your log is entered into an input file in a convenient format using your own text editor. No need to pay attention to putting data into predetermined columns: the Processors permit free-format input. Time may be entered as one, two, three, or four digits (just as you do in your log) and a variety of common section abbreviations are accepted. All input items are checked by the Processors to verify that they conform to an expected value; this minimizes errors introduced during data entry.

The ACU SS Processor is available in two versions. Both versions produce entry-ready summary, log, and dupe sheets and include basic band statistics. The 128K version adds extended statistics, including: 1) A band utilization summary listing number of band changes and number of operating periods per band; 2) A tabulation of the number of QSOs per section by band; 3) A tabulation of the number of QSOs per call area by band; 4) Operator statistics for multi-single entries; and 5) A collection of rate sheet data. All statistics are provided in tabular formats. The 128K version is intended to provide the information necessary to plan your station and tactics for improved performance in the next contest, without the time-consuming manual extraction of data.

The ACU SS Processors have been written in IBM PC Pascal, and are provided on a single-sided diskette as an executable (.EXE) module, two sample input files (one with data entry errors for demonstration), and a text file containing documentation. The SS Processors require an IBM PC with at least one disk drive, PC-DOS, any text editor, and a printer. The 96K version requires a system with 96K of RAM and will process logs with up to 1600 QSOs. The 128K version requires a system with (you guessed it!) 128K of RAM, and will process logs with up to 2500 QSOs (if you can demonstrate that you need more than that, I'll make up a special version for you!).

ACU SS Processor 96K Version, Release 1.0 \$55.00 ppd.
ACU SS Processor 128K Version, Release 1.0 \$75.00 ppd.

The ACU SS Processors are the first two of several planned post-contest log processors for use on the IBM PC.

The Anguilla Contest Utilities: Jeff Maass KBND/VP2EV
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MARC FLASH

- 5 -

October 1982

WHY MRRC CAN'T WIN SHEEPSTAKES
Jeff Maass KBND

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Sorry, guys, but it's true. It must be true, since we've got the evidence of seven years of SS entries from MRRC to prove it. If we don't consider the competitions prior to 1978 (the first year of the Medium Class), our best finish has been second (1978, losing to Murphy's by 600,000 points). In the last four years, we placed 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 5th, in that order. Table I summarizes our club results from 1978 to 1981.

Table I - ARRL Club Competition in SS					
YEAR	CLUB	TOTAL SCORE	# ENTRIES	PTS/ENTRY	PLACE
1978	MM	4,657,790	40	116,445	# 1
	MRRC	4,056,098	40	101,403	# 2
1979	YCCC	3,835,138	38	100,925	# 1
	MRRC	2,943,262	28	105,117	# 3
980*	TDXS	5,346,694	48	111,390	# 1
	MRRC	2,085,494	18	115,861	# 7
1981	NCCC	5,827,214	50	116,544	# 1
	MRRC	3,468,844	30	115,628	# 5

Table I shows that we have always submitted quality scores: we have improved our points-per-entry to a very high level. Our problem is that we don't have enough quantity: we need to get 50 entries while maintaining a reasonable points-per-entry ratio.

During the past four years we have had more than enough members to have had 25 quality submissions per mode. Some of those members have been lost to multi-single operations, but many have just failed to get on the air for both modes of the contest.

The result of our finishes in the past four years has been a catch-22: since some members don't see any chance of the club finishing respectably, they don't bother to get on for either mode, or they don't submit their score, or they submit their score for their local club. The apathy will eventually overtake even the diehard core of MRRC if we don't get active NOW.

I'm not suggesting that we begin padding the membership with marginally-interested people or non-contesters; all that does is to decrease our points-per-entry ratio and increase the number of entries. What we need to do is to somehow convince the CW operators to get on for the SSB contest and the SSB ops to get on for the CW contest. EVERY MRRC MEMBER MUST MAKE AN EFFORT TO HELP THE CLUB! (Tirade continued on next page)

* We even lost to the Western Washington DX Club in 1980!

ARC FLASH

- 6 -

October 1982

Tirade (Continued from previous page)

So, here's what you will do this year.

- 1) Every eligible member will make a serious effort to make at least 200,000 points for the club. No excuses will be accepted, and violators will be hassled unmercifully for the next 12 months.
- 2) Eligible members currently planning to participate from multi-single stations should consider one of two alternatives:
 - A) Consider going single operator for 24 hours from your own station or from a borrowed station.
 - B) Consider operating for several hours from your own station prior to joining the other operators in the multi.

3) If for some legitimate reason your station is going to be idle for one of the modes, arrange to loan it to an eligible member whose station may not be as effective as yours.

4) If you plan to be on for the contest, but can't put in a full 24-hour effort, consider organizing a multi-single to maximize the score from your station. (A multi-single station must be manned by 66% eligible members to count for the club score).

5) If you are not eligible due to your failure to make 50% of the club meetings, consider joining an existing multi-single to lend a hand in maximizing the club's score; then make a resolution to make the proper number of meetings in 1983.

6) If you know a contester in your area who is not yet a member of Mad River, recruit him for the SS effort. New members who join between now and the first SS weekend are automatically eligible to submit for the club, since we don't have any meetings between now and then.

All it will take for us to make a reasonable showing in the 1982 ARRL Sweepstakes is an effort on YOUR part. We need to encourage more intra-club competition to maximize our individual scores. We need to set individual quotas for all of the eligible stations, and make individual commitments to meet the quotas; for now, we need to make a serious effort THIS YEAR. We need to decide whether we want to be a contest club, or just a disconnected group of contesters who gather a few times a year and meet on the air once a week. Make a commitment to make Mad River a contest club!

MARC FLASH

- 7 -

October 1982

Kids Do the Darnedest Things:

The folks at WBLT had a bit of a shock in early September when they went up to their station in the football stadium at Ohio State and found out that they had been cleaned out; every major piece of equipment had been stolen! They lost: a C-line; TC-2 two-meter transverter; TC-6 six-meter transverter; SB-220; Dentron Super Tuner; an accessory console including clock, keyer, and phone patch; Heath HW-19 with VFO; and a two-meter rig. It appeared to be an inside job, as there were no signs of forced entry. Just one of the problems of having a club composed of a transient population!

On the positive side, they had the entire station insured for replacement value under the ARRL program, and have filed a claim for about \$5000. They are planning to re-equip the station with a TS-830S (or TS-930S) and an Alpha 76CA, with a TS-520S for backup and VHF use with transverters. Expect to hear WBLT on both modes for Sweepstakes, with KILT, WBBPHI, WBBWKB et. al. at the controls.

L'Histoire Poissonneux

During one of the Monday night net gatherings, a question of Big Fishes of the past was discussed. I gathered up my old FLASH issues and reconstructed a list of Fish history. Below is the Mad River Radio Club parade of Fish.

YEAR	FISH	YEAR	FISH
1971	KBEHU	1978	KBND
1975	KBEHU	1979	ACBE
early 1976*	KBMR/KBNZ	1980	K3LR
late 1976	KBNZ	1981	ADBP
1977	KBMR	1982	KBCC

I trust that all of the above-named piscine persons will avoid fishlice, fishmold, fishpoison (including red buckeyes), and fishhooks. Who will be fishified next year? Stay tuned...

Special Election Notice

You may not know that a Mad River member, Dr. John Sheller, KN8Z, is running for a seat in the Ohio State House of Representatives from the 32nd District (the area southwest of Columbus). As of this writing, I don't know whether he won or lost, so check your local newspaper for late results.

* Early 1976 was prior to the Dayton meeting; late was post-Dayton. Jim and Ron were Siamese Fish during early '76.

MARC FLASH

- 8 -

October 1982

CONTEST PLANS FOR VP2E 1983 Jeff Maass KBND/VP2EV

I've been asked about my plans for contest operations from Anguilla in 1983. Frankly, I cannot get excited about doing another multi-single effort in the ARRL DX Contests; we hold the multi-single records for both modes and don't have any goals to work for. In addition, there has been some interest expressed in assaulting one of the CQWW Contests as a multi-single in 1983.

I am tentatively planning to go down to VP2E for a single-op 40 meter effort in the ARRL SSB DX Contest in March. Since I'm also tentatively planning to buy a house in the Spring, the March trip may be cancelled. I am willing to include a couple of other operators to do single-band efforts, but they will be responsible for providing their own antennas (beyond what is down there) and their own stations.

I'm beginning to plan for a big multi-single in the CQWW CW Contest, November 26-27, 1983. I plan to arrive on about 22 November 1983, and intend to stay on Anguilla until December 6 to participate as a single-op in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest. I would like to have a total of five operators and an expanded antenna system for this one; we have an uphill battle against the PJ2's and other South Americans.

Last year brought a new difficulty that I hate dealing with: I had more operator volunteers than I had slots for. Rather than begging in the DX bulletins for someone to fill the last spot on the team, I was receiving phone calls from people all over the country asking to join. To avoid any problems this time, here is how I'm going to select operators in 1983 and any future trips.

Operators who have participated in previous VP2E operations have first priority. If it comes down to one slot for two previous participants, the one with the most previous trips will be selected. The current count for our four contest DXpeditions are given below:

CALL	TRIPS	CALL	TRIPS
KBND	4	AA4GA	1
K8MR	2	AA4NC	1
ADBJ	2	K8RPX	1
WDBALG	2	W0RLX	1
WB6SHD	2	WABCZS	1
WB6VPA	2	K8BN	1
K8CV	1		

Second priority will go to Mad River members who have not been on our previous DX trips. Third priority will go to others as I see fit. I think that this is the most fair selection policy that I can abide by; there are just too many people who want to go. I reserve the right to modify this policy at any time.

If you are interested in joining one of the coming VP2E operations, please let me know ASAP so that planning can begin.

CQWW SSB High Claimed Scores

Here are the scores available as of publication for the Mad River club effort (all multi-single). Don't forget that CQWW scores must be reported to K8CC to count for the club score.

W8UA 160 16/ 6/ 10 Ops: W8UA, KBNA, K8SS, K8BL, W8LU, W8BYVR, N8AJF

80 116/23/ 60
40 135/28/ 75
20 480/36/122
15 475/34/115
10 395/31/111

Total 1615/158/493 Approximate score: 3 Million

K8BS 160 9/ 8/ 7
80 53/21/ 51
40 147/24/ 65
20 446/36/108
15 352/28/ 88
10 289/29/ 87

Total 1296/146/406 Approximate score: 2 Million

Also active as a multi-single was AD8I (with KBND, KUBE, KWBJ, K8BIFC, and K1LT): I'm not allowed to reveal the numbers yet.

For reference, the top U.S. multi-single (as reported by K3LR) was:

KR2N 160 19/ 9/ 17
80 135/21/ 67
40 112/26/ 62
20 757/36/121
15 640/32/120
10 815/32/127

Total 2478/156/514 Approximate score: 4.6 Million

Don't forget about CQWW CW November 27-28: Let's see a big representation of WB's in this one! Send me your claimed scores for both modes.

Contest Calendar

The following is a list of the major contests and entry deadlines for October, November, and December.

October 30-31	CQWW, SSB.	Deadline: December 1 postmark.
November 6-7	Sweepstakes, CW.	Deadline: December 22 postmark.
November 20-21	Sweepstakes, SSB.	Deadline: December 22 postmark.
November 27-28	CQWW, CW.	Deadline: January 15 postmark.
December 4-5	ARRL 160 M (CW)	Deadline: January 4 postmark.
December 11-12	ARRL 10 Meter.	Deadline: January 12 postmark.

Special note: ARRL will no longer accept late logs for any reason.