

Net: Monday 8:30 3825 KHz

GO MAD RIVER!

See You At Dayton!

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FLASHES of Inspiration: Editorial Ramblings
Jeff Maass K8ND

Another contest season is REALLY over now, and we can all breathe our collective sighs of relief until summer is over. Of course, we have Dayton, antenna expansion and repairs, long-forgotten spouses, kids (any new ones that you haven't noticed yet?), work, and other hobbies to take up our summer days and nights.

I have a suggestion: use this time to review your contest operations of 1982, and find out why you didn't do better. Why did you do so poorly on 80-meters during the CQWW when you did so well on 40? Did you spend too much time on 10 meters during SS? Look through your logs and study your offtime usage. Are you sleeping more than you should? Are you taking offtimes while everyone else makes hay? Does the circuit breaker on your amplifier ALWAYS blow on Saturday morning when your spouse dries the clothes?

The point is: now is the time to sit back and reflect on problems and decide on solutions. Make those improvements now and you can take advantage of them in the Fall. Of course if you don't, you'll get trounced again.

While you are doing all of this, keep notes (a station notebook is a good idea) and jot down other "blue sky" ideas for later consideration. Periodically, send me copies of some of your notes for publication in The Flash, and discuss them on the weekly net: perhaps someone else can contribute to your improvements, save you some time, and/or save you some money. Remember, what you get out of Mad River and the Flash will be directly proportional to what you put in.

Dayton 1983 Mad River Meeting

The Dayton meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be held Saturday, April 30, at 12:45 PM. Details on page 2!

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, K8ND, at the address given above. Join the Mad River Net, on Mondays, 8:30 PM Eastern, on approximately 3.825 MHz.

Dayton Hamvention Events

Here are a few of the forums to choose from at this year's Dayton Hamvention. Check your program for exact times.

Saturday, April 30

Contest Forum - Moderator: Tim Duffy, K3LR

"A New World Record: P42E CQWW CW M-M 1982", Wally Eckles, W8LRL.

"Effective Station Design for Contest Operation", Bill Myers, K1GQ.

"Everything is Bigger in Texas - NSAU", Randy Thompson, K5ZD.

"Contest Antennas and Sweepstakes", Fred Lass, K2TR.

"Contest Criteria, ARRL", Mark Wilson, AA2Z.

"Contest Criteria, CQWW", Bob Cox, K3EST.

"Trophies", Frank Anzalone, W1WY.

DX Forum - Moderators: Mike Wren, K8NW, and Dave Heil, K8MN

"China Operation", JA1BK.

"Heard Island DXpedition", ???

"South Pacific DXpedition", SMOAGD.

"DXing - Kansas City Style", Kansas City DX Club.

"DX Advisory Committee Report", WOSR, N4MM, and W3AZD.

Dayton MRRRC Meeting

The 1983 Dayton meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be held Saturday following the Contest Forum in the arena stands above the Drake booth. The meeting will begin between 12:45 PM and 1 PM. Please ignore any meeting schedule published in the Hamvention Program: we will not be meeting on Sunday.

It is important that you attend this meeting to maintain your contest eligibility (remember, you must attend at least 2 of the 4 meetings held each year to remain contest eligible) and to have your voice heard in the future directions of MRRRC.

During the meeting, we will arrange to meet following the closing of the Hamvention festivities on Saturday for food and good extended discussion prior to the beginning of the evening's Downtown Circus.

VP2E 1983 Plans
Jeff Maass, K8ND

I have begun to re-think the plans for the 1983 VP2E Contest DXpedition. Originally, the plan was for a major multi-single operation in the CQWW CW Contest, with secondary operations in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest and the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. I am now leaning toward several single-op, single band CQWW CW operations from a common site.

The house used for our VP2E efforts in 1980, 1981, and 1982 has been
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(VP2E 1983, Continued from page 2)

reserved for our use from November 21 through December 14, 1983. Because this trip will take place during the non-peak season, the cost of the house is about two-thirds what it has been in the past, resulting in a less expensive trip for all involved.

I am in the process of purchasing a 60-foot aluminum tower to add to the one currently stored on St. Martin, and I have already obtained a 2 element 40 meter beam for this trip. I'm now looking for small monobanders for other bands.

If you are interested in joining any of these efforts, please contact me as soon as possible for details. Those who have already expressed your interest, please drop me another note to confirm that you are still interested, and to express your opinion on how we should proceed.

A Contest Quality 10-Meter Preamp
Randy Farmer W8FN

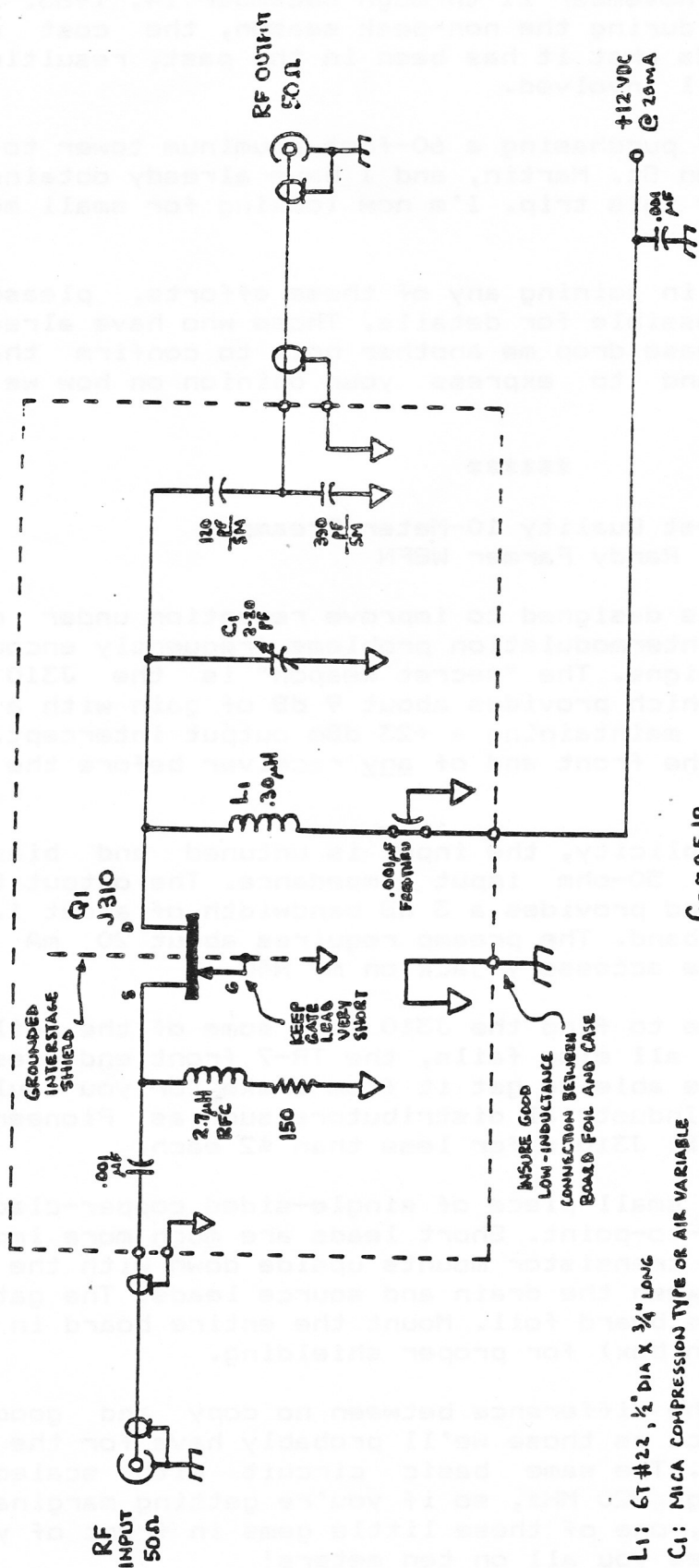
This 10-meter preamp is designed to improve reception under contest conditions without the intermodulation problems frequently encountered with bipolar or mosfet designs. The "secret weapon" is the J310 field effect transistor (FET), which provides about 9 dB of gain with a 2.5 dB noise figure while still maintaining a +23 dBm output intercept. (This means that you'll crunch the front end of any receiver before the preamp gives up!).

In the interest of simplicity, the input is untuned and biased to provide a power matched 50-ohm input impedance. The output tank is designed for very high Q and provides a 3 dB bandwidth of about 1.8 MHz, enough to cover the whole band. The preamp requires about 20 mA at 12 volts, which I get from the accessory jack on my R4C.

It should be possible to find the J310 from some of the mail order suppliers or at Dayton. If all else fails, the TR-7 front end uses this device, so you should be able to get it from Drake [Or you could cannibalize your TR-7 - ED]. Industrial distributors such as Pioneer sell either Motorola or Siliconix J310's for less than \$2 each.

I built my preamp on a small piece of single-sided copper-clad board and wired everything point-to-point. Short leads are much more important than a pretty layout! The transistor mounts upside down with the shield straddling the package between the drain and source leads. The gate lead is soldered directly to the board foil. Mount the entire board in a good metal box (like a small minibox) for proper shielding.

This preamp has made the difference between no copy and good copy for very weak signals (such as those we'll probably have for the next 5 years) in various contests. The same basic circuit with scaled tank values works well up through 220 MHz, so if you're getting marginal copy on a juicy DX repeater, one of these little gems in front of your 2-meter receiver may help. See you all on ten meters!



L1: 6T #22, 1/2" DIA X 3/4" LONG

C1: MICA COMPRESSION TYPE OR AIR VARIABLE

J310 BASING:



$G_p \approx 9.5\text{dB}$
 $NF \approx 2.5\text{dB}$
 $IP_3 \approx +23\text{dBm}$

W8FN
 3-22-83

HIGH-INTERCEPT 10 METER PREAMP

Mad River/NOARS Cooperation
Mike Bokulich KBUS

The annual pilgrimage of area contesters made it's way to KBMR's QTH on Thursday December 30th for the 6th annual Mad River Christmas Party/Meeting. It was another fine event, with about 30 amateurs attending. A variety of memory keyers were on display and were available for everyone to sample.

Dave, KBCC, the Mad River Big Fish (President) came from Michigan and presented a slide show of various contest stations from around the country. Stations shown were those of N4AR, N5AU, K5RC, and N5JJ.

During the formal part of the meeting Tim, K3LR, and Bob, KW8N, were recognized by the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) for their contributions to the contest community. Upcoming contests were discussed, and ways to better represent our section of the country during these contests was the primary subject of discussion. Since approximately 95% of Mad River members are also NOARS members, it was recommended to continue working together in cooperative efforts during major contests. By working together as a united team, contesters who are members of both clubs can chip in their contest points toward a common cause, thus helping NOARS and Mad River improve their respective showings in the contest arena. Grouping forces shows the camaraderie that has developed in our area, and the character of the Mad River and NOARS members: truly the spirit of Amateur Radio fellowship.

Following is a schedule approved by the joint effort. If you are a member of both clubs, we encourage you to submit your score in the name of Mad River or NOARS as indicated.

CQWW 160 Meter (CW and SSB):	NOARS
ARRL DX Contest (CW and SSB):	MRRC
CQWW WPX (CW and SSB):	NOARS
ARRL Sweepstakes (CW and SSB):	MRRC

For ALL contests, everyone should send a copy of their summary sheet to the following within 30 days of the end of the contest:

Barry Schieferstein N8EDE
2345 Hamilton Avenue
Lorain OH 44052
Phone: (216) 246-2830

Jeff Maass KBND
4410 Norwell Drive
Columbus OH 43220
Phone: (614) 451-3713

ARRL CW DX Contest

Despite lousy conditions, Mad River members made a good showing in the ARRL CW DX Contest, February 19-20. Initial reports are shown below, but these reflect only those that I managed to get on paper.

Single Operator

W8UA 952/230
 N8UM 734/193
 K8SS 426/173
 KC8JH 200/111
 K3LR ? / ?
 VP2EU (K8MR) 4090/295

W8UA Breakdown By Band

160	0/0
80	41/26
40	93/49
20	344/67
15	418/64
10	46/26
Total	952/230

Multi-Single

K8ND 1273/274 (Final)
 N8AA 1100/260
 W8RRR 916/230
2 Transmitter Multi-Multi

K8ND Breakdown By Band

160	15/14
80	49/33
40	176/64
20	452/72
15	540/69
10	41/22
Total	1273/274

W88JBM 1428/308
 W8FN 640/228

ARRL SSB DX Contest

The SSB version was more of the same, with generally poor conditions.

Single Operator

K8AZ 790/274 (AB)
 KC8JH 448/219 (AB)
 K8MR 100/ 70 (AB)
 K3LR 1065/122 (15)
 W8FN 318/89 (15)
 A8BP 15/15 (20)

K8ND Breakdown By Band
(Final)

160	12/11
80	109/51
40	117/54
20	543/106
15	715/100
10	145/54

Multi-Single

W88JBM 970/301
 K8CC 800/270+

Total 1641/376

2 Transmitter Multi-Multi

K8ND 1641/376 (Final)

Summary

In general, the East and the West cleaned our collective clocks, suffering less from the effects of the putrid conditions than we poor souls stuck in the middle.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest Rules Change

Late word from Jim, K8MR, the Eighth Area representative to the Contest Advisory Committee, is that the rules for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest have been changed to give double points for CW QSOs! A number of Mad River contesters have been hoping for this for the last several years. Now, in several years when propagation returns, we'll hear the beep-beep of CW where there has been little before!

WPX SSB 1983

I have one claimed score from the WPX SSB Contest. KQ8M, with a single operator, all band effort: 1524/561 for 1.8 Million Points. Good job!

New Fishes (Hatchlings?)

The following are newly added to the MRRC school. When you hear them on, be sure to give them a point!

Greg Lee KCBJH
John Tymensky N8CXX
Ken Stenback A18S

Results

The following have been gathered from recently published final results.

1982 IARU Radiosport Championship

KBNZ (KQ8M, opr)	#3 W/VE, Mixed Mode
WB8JBM(N8DCJ, opr)	#4 W/VE, Mixed Mode
KCBJH	#10 W/VE, Phone

1982 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

AD8I	#1 Single Operator, #1 Overall
KBUS	#8 Single Operator, #10 Overall
WBLT (K1LT, K8ND, KUBE, WD8IXE)	#1 Multi-Single, #2 Overall

K8MR Ties The Knot

Just prior to travelling to Anguilla for the CQWW SSB Contest, Jim Stahl, K8MR, married Linda and made a honeymoon trip out of it! Some of us found out about it following the contest on the air. It seems that Jim sent Linda to Sint Maarten with Burt Myers (W0RLX/VP2EAA) for most of the contest: I wonder what he'll do for SS this year!