

----- The Official Journal of the Mad River Radio Club -----

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FLASHES of Inspiration: What's ahead for MRRC
by Dave Pruett K8CC

The 1983/84 contest season is now half over. CQWW and SS are behind us, but ARRL DX and CQ WPX loom on the horizon. Both upcoming events pose interesting challenges as MRRC and the North Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) will join forces through their common membership in a cooperative effort to WIN in the arena of Club Competition.

To help you prepare, the emphasis in this issue is on strategy and preparation for the DX type contests. From way back in 1971 comes an article by the University of Michigan (WBUM) operating crew on running a DX contest. Back in the late sixties and early seventies these guys were the ones to beat, and some are still active (a few are MRRC members). For operating aids, you will find a nifty band-country checksheet (from JA1KSO courtesy of N4AR) which on the flip side has a guide to Russian prefixes and the country it counts for (tnx K1KI). For pointing your 'death ray' at the DX, club member WM4T offers a computerized listing of beam headings to appropriate DX spots around the world from your QTH, FREE to MRRC members. Certainly, paperwork is the scourge of any to contest effort - enclosed is an official log and summary sheet so you will have the correct forms. From the technical department, W8FN shows us a unique antenna switching scheme for a two transmitter station which allows both radios access to all antennas/bands with lockout provisions to protect one from the other. Just the ticket for multi-single or multi-double.

Remember the cooperative effort between MRRC and NOARS. If you are a member of both clubs, your ARRL DX score goes to Mad River and your CQ WPX score goes to NOARS. Summary sheets for ARRL DX are available from K8CC, and for CQ WPX from N8EDE. Also, please let these coordinators know your results so you can be lauded for your efforts.

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: Dave Pruett K8CC, at the address given above. Join the Mad River Net, on Mondays, 8:30 PM Eastern, on approximately 3.825 MHz.

MAD RIVER NEWS

Several items of business were decided on during the Christmas Party MRRC meeting at the QTH of K8MR on December 30. The membership decided to have a 'real' meeting at Dayton this year, to be held at 4:00 PM on Saturday afternoon subsequent to and in the same room as the contest forum. There was strong support for having a 'Contesters Dinner' on Saturday evening, plans for which are being looked into. There was also some discussion concerning a MRRC hospitality suite at Dayton, as a pair of commercial concerns have expressed an interest in co-sponsorship as a means to defray expenses for the club. W8LND is investigating this possibility which would be good PR for Mad River.

WM4T has adapted the beam heading computer program from the ARRL Antenna Book onto his Apple II computer. The program produces a beam heading chart for a given QTH to a multitude of domestic and DX cities. He has offered to make a heading chart FREE for any paid up MRRC member who sends him a business size SASE. If you would like one, contact John for postage info via his CBA, roster address or (606) 331-0331.

MRRC's own KUBE experienced good success with his Anguilla DX-pedition during November and December. Jeff reports his single op efforts:

CQWW DX (40M) :	VP2EEW	1929 Q's x 28 zones x 92 countries = 562,080
ARRL 160M :	VP2EEW	247 Q's x 51 mults = 25,194
ARRL 10M (SSB):	VP2EEW	3063 Q's x 136 mults = 833,136

Claimed scores have him #2 World 40M in CQWW and #1 Phone Only in ARRL 10M! It looks like Jeff will have to find a place for the N7DD 10M Phone Plaque on his wall. Nice job !!!

Three MRRC types will be banging away at the other end again this year in ARRL DX on CW. All will be serious S/O all banders, so to help you know who to look for, here is a summary of MRRC Caribbean activity:

HR1DAP: K8CC in disguise. FT107M/L4B, CL36 and wires for 160/80/40. Usual frequencies up from the lower edge of CW bands. Will try 160 on the hour starting at 0400Z, just above 1830 or at the lower end to escape BC QRM. Also plans to be active w/180 foot broadcast vertical on 160 the evening of Wednesday Feb. 15 starting at 0500Z. Good chance for little guns to work HR on 160, and will be QRV for MRRC types.

N8DCJ/8P6: FT101ZD/FL2100B, ATB34 and wires for 160/80/40. Most likely will have a Barbados callsign to use. Check 160 at 05Z and 06Z.

K8WW/VP9: TS830S, TH2 and zepp. No KW's allowed, but a better location this year will help. Will try 160 at the urging of K8NZ.

DON'T FORGET !! - K8KR6/R 144.55/145.15 for DX Test multiplier info. S/O stations can't monitor the repeater for mults, but there is no rule that sez they can't put out the good stuff to help the mults. GO MAD RIVER!!!

Tips on Running a DX Contest

by WBVSK, KBMFO, N4KG, K8VQP, W8BYVR, W8TJQ, K8QKY, N8BV & W8VBY

The best way to learn what propagation is going to be like in your area is to get on a few weeks before the contest and get to know conditions on the bands at your QTH. Combined with a good propagation chart, this should allow you to lay out a game plan for the contest.

Make sure you get your station set up so you can change bands quickly - in 30 seconds or less. You may find it convenient to use masking tape to mark your control settings for the various bands. With rare exceptions, never spend more than 30 minutes on a single band in one stretch. Even if a certain band is hot, you risk the chance of missing something equally important on another band.

Don't use a speaker. Get yourself either some cushioned stereo headphones or some of the stethoscope variety and use them.

Avoid the use of non-standard phonetics for your call. Stick to the ARRL or military lists.

In looking for a specific area, you must consider its local time. Don't be looking for ST2SA just because the band is open. If it is 2 am in the Sudan, chances are Sid is in bed. Because DX-peditions are on 24 hours a day, we sometimes forget that the other guy has to sleep too.

Learn to recognize the DX station's operating habits. Is he answering callers on his frequency or only those up 5 kHz? Is he accepting tail enders? If you fail to recognize how he is working stations you can have an excellent signal and still not get through.

The DX station knows his own call so you only need to give it once. A one by three call is the longest call you should ever give. Keep those calls short, especially on 40 and 80. A big signal isn't as important as good timing.

Don't necessarily stay in the low end of the band. You may be able to find more QSO's higher in the band with less QRM and other competitors to contend with.

Sleep is a personal matter, but it is good to get some. 04Z-12Z is advisable and the more ambitious might try 07Z-12Z. You must weigh the small number of multipliers that you will work in the middle of the night against your loss of efficiency the next morning when things are comparatively much busier.

Try not to spend more than five minutes in a pileup. Note the frequency, go off and work someone else and come back later. Don't waste much time in a pileup if the station isn't working people from your call district. At the beginning of an opening (for example to Europe) skip will favor the East Coast and as the day progresses will slowly move west. If you leave the pileup and return 15 to 20 minutes later you may find the station working nothing but 8's and 9's. Needless to say, this is the most profitable time to call.

DX tips (cont.)

Don't get discouraged on the first day of the contest, because as the contest progresses it becomes easier going - especially for the barefoot stations.

If ten is open, stay with it longer than you normally would. Try and make an effort to hit ten harder the first day. It may not open to many areas - especially Europe - on the second day. Keep checking ten occasionally.

Don't miss the European openings on any bands. Be careful spending time on the sunset European opening on 40. You will get beaten too easily and too often by the East Coast to make it worth much of your time. Europeans come thru on 80 from 0400Z to 0800Z.

The Russian and Eastern European opening will come with the bands also open to western Europe. It is not an ill-concieved plan to work nothing but eastern Europeans when 15 opens in the morning, ignoring the equally loud western Europeans because you can pick them up long after the easterners are gone.

Don't pass by South American stations on 40 and 80 when the band is open to Europe, because they will go to bed and you won't find them later on.

Spend a half an hour on 40 and 80 sometime between 1200-1400Z. Don't try for quantity here, just work one of each multiplier and leave the band. Asiatic Russians tend to hang out around 7027-7037 kHz.

You are far better off concentrating on the second level Europeans. HBODX may be 599 and have a hundred stations calling him, but at the same time HBOXJO may be up 5 kHz with only a 559 signal and nobody calling him. A lot of the big signals will be in the contest seriously and literally begging for contacts on the second day.

20 will often die out at night and come back again. Don't go to 40 and 80 at 0100Z and never listen back on 20 until the next morning. Keep checking 20 meters. 0100-0330Z look for Asiatic Russians.

Make up a chart of multipliers by continent and by band after the first day. This way you will find out which openings to what areas you should hit harder the second day. If you have two Europeans on 80 and 25 on 40, it would probably be more profitable to spend a bit more time on 80 if the band is open since it will be considerably easier to work a third European multiplier on 80 than the 26th one on 40.

Take some 3x5 index cards and make up some prompting cards for each band of multipliers you feel you are likely to pick up on the second day. You may have worked EL2CB on four bands the first day, but be missing him on 20. Now if you are not aware that you need EL2 on 20 there is a good chance that unless your memory is awfully good you might pass him by without even checking your check sheet because you are sure you have him.

That's it - Happy hunting and GO MRRC !!!

(do not write above this line)



ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST

CW Third FULL weekend in February – Phone First FULL weekend in March



CALL USED _____

CW ☐
PHONE ☐

ARRL SECTION (P. 8 QST) _____

Separate logs and summaries must be submitted for each mode of operation.

Single operator

- ☐ All band
☐ Single band(circle one)
160-80-40-20-15-10
☐ QRP (10w or less)

Multioperator

- ☐ Single transmitter
☐ Two transmitter
☐ Unlimited

Multiops list ALL operators:

	Valid QSOs	Countries
160		
80		
40		
20		
15		
10		
Total		

_____ x 3 = _____ x _____ Countries =
(Valid QSOs) (QSO Points)
_____ Claimed Score.

DC POWER INPUT – CHECK ANY USED:

☐ 10 watts or less ☐ 11-200 ☐ Over 200

YES ☐ AFFILIATED CLUB PARTICIPATION

NO ☐

ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB NAME _____

(Note: Club secretary must submit list of eligibles in order for club aggregate to be listed. 3 or more entries must be submitted.)

"I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations established for amateur radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee."

Date _____ Signature _____ Call _____

Print or type:

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

1. Check log for duplicate QSOs.
2. Copy ALL QSO info carefully. A penalty is assessed for incorrectly copied QSO info.
3. Observe mailing deadline
4. Dupe/check sheet must accompany all entries of 500 or more QSOs

Country-Zone Multiplier Check-list, Call:

	160	80	40	20	15	10		160	80	40	20	15	10		160	80	40	20	15	10		160	80	40	20	15	10		160	80	40	20	15	10
A2							HK							S9							XE							8P6						
A35							HRWb							SM							XF4							8Q7						
A4X							HRWm							SP							XT2							8R1						
A51							HRWs							ST							XU							8Z4						
A							HL							STg							XV							9A						
A							HP							SU							XW8							9G1						
A3K							HR							SV							XZ							9H						
AP							H5							SV/A														9J2						
BV							HV							SV/c							Y2-9							9K2						
BY							HZ							SV/d							YA							9L1						
C21							I							T2							YB							9M2						
C31							ISg							T31							YI							9M8						
C5A							IT9							T32							YJ8							9N1						
C6							J2							T3p							YK							9Q5						
C9M							J3							TA							YN							9U5						
CE							J5							TF							YO							9V1						
CEQA							J6							TG							YS							9X5						
CEQZ							J7							TI							XU							9Y4						
CEQX							J8							TI9							YV													
CO							JA							TJ1							YVg							ET/A						
CV							JD1m							TL8							ZA													
CP							JD1o							TN8							ZB2													
CR9							JT							TR8							ZD7													
CT							JW							TT8							ZD8													
CT2							JW b							TU2							ZD9													
CT3							JX							TY							Z2													
CX							JY							TZ							ZF													
D2A							K/N														ZK1													
D4C							KC6e							UA							ZK1M													
D6A							KC6w							UK1P							ZK2													
DJ							KG4							UA2							ZL													
DU							KH1							UAg							ZL/A													
EA							KH2							UB5							ZL/C													
EA6							KH3							UC2							ZL/K													
EA8							KH4							UD6							ZM7													
EA9							KH5							UF6							ZP													
EI							KH5k							UG6							ZS													
EL							KH6							UH8							ZS2M													
EP							KH7							UI8							ZS3													
ET							KH8							UJ8							1Ag													
							KH9							UL7							1S							1						
							KHg							UM8							3A							2						
FB8X							KL7							UN1							3B6							3						
FB8Z							KP1							UO5							3B8							4						
FC							KP2							UP2							3B9							5						
FG7							KP4							UQ2							3C							6						
FH8							KP4D							UR2							3Cg							7						
FK8							KX6														3D2							8						
FM7							LA							V2							3D6							9						
FO8							LU							V3							3V8							10						
FOgX							LU3Z							VE							3X							11						
FP8							LX							VE1p							3Y							12						
FR7							LZ							VE1s														13						
FR7G							OA							VK							4S7							14						
FR7J							OD5							VK21							4ULITU							15						
FR7T							OE							VK9X							4ULUN							16						
FS7							OH							VK9Y							4W							17						
FW8							OHg							VK9Z							4X							18						
FY7							OJg							VK9m														19						
G							OK							VK9N							5A							20						
GD							ON							VKg							5B							21						
GI							OX							VKg							5H3							22						
GJ							OY							VP2E							5N							23						
GM							OZ							VP2K							5R8							24						
GM/s							P29							VP2M							5T5							25						
GU							PA							VP2V							5U7							26						
GW							PJ							VP5							5V							27						
H44							PJ7g							VP8							5W1							28						
HA							PY							VP8g							5X5							29						
HB9							PYg							VP8o							5Z4							30						
HBg							PYgs							VP9							6O							31						
HC							PYgc							VQ9							6W8							32						
HC8							PZ							VR6							6Y5							33						
HH							S2							VS5														34						
HI							S79							VS6							7O							35						
														VU							7PB							36						
														VU/a							7Q7							37						

CE9=S.Shetlands	C5 =ZD3	J5 =CR3	KH4 =KM6	KP1 =KC4n	T2 =VR8	Z2 =ZE
=HFØPOL,LU-Z,	C6 =VP7	J6L =VP2L	KH5 =KP6	KP2 =KV4	T3Ø =VR1	9A1 =M1
VP8,4K1GM	C9M =CR7	J7D =VP2D	KH5K=KP6K	KP3 =KS4sb	T31 =VR1P	ET/A=Abu Ail
KC4A=Antarctica	D2A =CR6	J8S =VP2S	KH7 =KH6k	=HKØ	T32 =VR3	

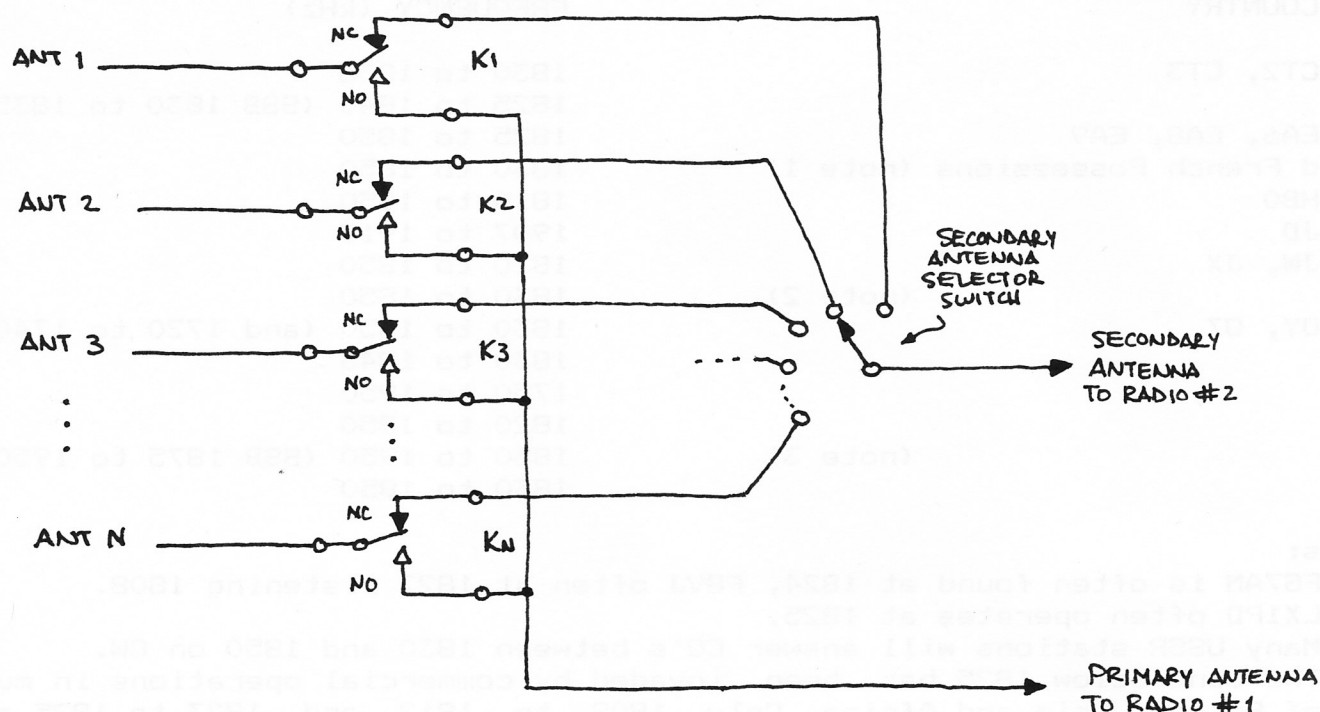
U Confused??

There are 18 DXCC countries in the USSR. However, many contesters suffer some confusion in determining which prefix counts as which country. Here is a guide to the Russian prefixes:

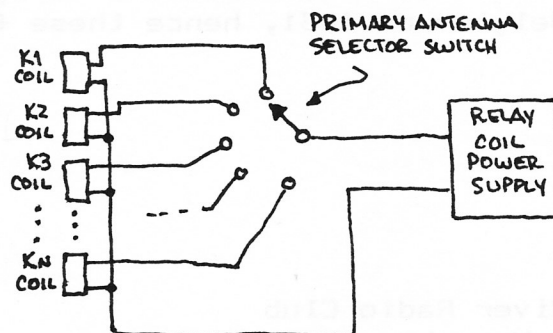
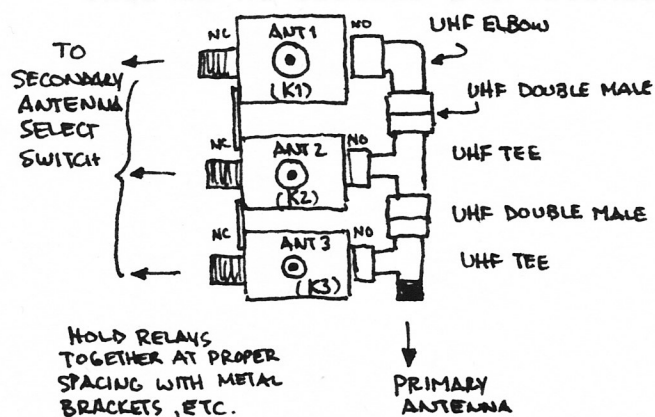
UK2A = UC2
UK2B = UP2
UK2C = UC2
UK2E = UC2
UK2F = UA2
UK2G = UQ2
UK2H = UQ2
UK2I = UC2
UK2O = UC2
UK2P = UP2
UK2Q = UQ2
UK2R = UR2
UK6C = UD6
UK6D = UD6
UK6E = UA1
UK6F = UF6
UK6G = UG6
UK6H = UA1
UK6J = UA1
UK6K = UD6
UK6L = UA1
UK6N = UA1
UK6O = UF6
UK6P = UA1
UK6Q = UF6
UK6R = UA1
UK6U = UA1
UK6V = UF6
UK6W = UA1
UK6Z = UA1
UK7 = UL7
UK8A = UI8
UK8G = UI8
UK8H = UI8
UK8I = UI8
UK8J = UJ8
UK8K = UI8
UZ4 = UA1
UZ9 = UA9

UK4 = UA1
UK5 = UB5 (except UK50)
UK50 = UO5
UK6A = UA1
UK6B = UA1
UK8R = UJ8
UK8S = UI8
UK8Z = UI8
UK9 = UA9
UK0 = UA0
UT5 = UB5
UV1 = UA1
UV3 = UA1
UV4 = UA1
UV6 = UA1
UV9 = UA9
UV0 = UA0
UW1 = UA1
UW3 = UA1
UW4 = UA1
UW6 = UA1
UW9 = UA9
UW0 = UA0
UX1 = UA1
UX3 = UA1
UX4 = UA1
UX6 = UA1
UX9 = UA9
UX0 = UA0
UY5 = UB5
UK8L = UI8
UK8M = UM8
UK8N = UM8
UK8O = UI8
UK8Q = UI8
UZ1 = UA1
UZ3 = UA1
UZ6 = UA1
UZ0 = UA0

PRIMARY/SECONDARY ANTENNA SELECTION
USING COAX RELAYS
by Randy Farmer W8FN



USING DOW-KEY TYPE COAX RELAYS:
(RELAYS VIEWED FROM INPUT END)



W8FN
10-7-83

Whichever relay is energized by the primary antenna selector switch (rotary or pushbutton) will cause the corresponding antenna to be REMOVED from the secondary station, even if selected.

FOR SALE: R4C (S/N 24.5K) w/audio, product detector and p/s mods, 500 Hz, 160, 10 and WWV xtals \$275 T4XC/AC4 \$275 SB220 \$475 (pick-up only)
Joe Subich AD8I (614) 477-1373 between 8 and 11 PM EST.

FOR SALE: Johnson Thunderbolt \$425 Pickup or will deliver to Dayton '84
John Thernes WM4T (606) 331-0331

Joe ADSI passes along this 160M info. Many DX countries have different frequency allocations than we do, so use this information to find the DX.

COUNTRY	FREQUENCY (kHz)
CT, CT2, CT3	1830 to 1835
DL	1825 to 1840 (SSB 1830 to 1835)
EA, EA6, EA8, EA9	1825 to 1850
F and French Possessions (note 1)	1830 to 1850
HB, HB0	1810 to 1850
JA, JD	1907 to 1913
LA, JW, JX	1820 to 1850
LX (note 2)	1830 to 1850
OX, OY, OZ	1830 to 1850 (and 1720 to 1740)
SM	1830 to 1845
SP	1750 to 1950
TF	1820 to 1850
USSR (note 3)	1850 to 1950 (SSB 1875 to 1950)
Y	1830 to 1850

Notes:

1. FG7AM is often found at 1824, F8VJ often at 1827 listening 1808.
2. LX1PD often operates at 1825.
3. Many USSR stations will answer CQ's between 1830 and 1850 on CW.
4. The band below 1825 has been invaded by commercial operations in much of Europe, Asia and Africa. Only 1809 to 1812 and 1823 to 1825 are reasonably free from commercial QRM.
5. Press CW transmissions originate in West Germany on 1830 and in Belgium on 1831, hence these frequencies are useless in Europe.

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