

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

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What is a MRRC member?  
by Dave Pruett K8CC

Webster's dictionary defines a member as 'one of the persons composing a society, community or party'. The ARRL defines a club member as one who lives within 175 miles of the club center and attends at least half the meetings per year (of which there must be at least four), or who lives within 50 miles of the club center for whom the meeting requirement is waived. The real question is: how does MRRC define a member?

There are generally two ways to get on the roster. The first is to attend a meeting and sign the sign-up sheet, which will get you on the list for at least a year (even if you don't attend another meeting) and into the MRRC database for eternity. The second way is to pay your dues, which guarantees being on the roster for as long as they are current (and gets you the 'Flash'), after which the first rule applies.

This question of membership comes up every November when we try to get our roster together for the Sweepstakes Club Competition. There are a few people, particularly in the Columbus area and inside the 50 mile circle, that we never hear from except at SS time. We would like to ask all these 'casual members' to make their presence known to the club record keeper (that's K8CC) whose address is shown above. We would dearly love to have you come to all four meetings each year and pay your dues, but then we might make you an officer and you might not want that. Not everyone can participate at a full level - if so, then that's OK with us. But please let us know you are alive, well and hopefully radiating RF.

All this is part of our master plan to bring the club together. Webster has another definition for a member: 'a part of a whole; an independent constituent of a body, structure or organized thing.' MRRC certainly qualifies as an 'organized thing' - we want you to be part of the whole of this thing - a member of the Mad River Radio Club.

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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.

## WORD FROM THE 'BIG FISH'

by Bill Kelsey NBET

Just a short one this month -K8CC says I use too much space in the 'Flash' with all my scribbles. My high school English teacher would never believe that !

MRRC has sent a letter to the Northern California Contest Club accepting on even terms their challenge in the 'unlimited' category in the SS Affiliated Club Competition. At the time of this writing, we are the only club to respond. I have received a copy of the NCCC newsletter and they are starting a recruiting drive to boost their membership before SS. If any of you know someone who is interested in Mad River, bring them along to Findlay for the meeting. It is going to take a lot of work and a big effort on everyone's part to beat NCCC, and we can use all the help we can get to win !

Don't forget the get-together at my QTH the Saturday night before the Findlay Hamfest, which is the weekend after Labor Day. Plan on arriving any time after noon on Saturday - about 3 PM we will journey over to the KSBS QTH for an inspection of Dean's new antenna systems, returning about 6 PM. For dinner, I will provide hamburgers with the trimmings, and Goose WDBLLD has volunteered to bring the beer. If you plan on coming, bring some munchies and something to drink. Please let me know if you plan on attending so I can figure out how much meat to buy. I will be providing floor space for sleeping at my QTH, and any overflow can be accommodated at other MRRC QTHs in the area. Bring your own sleeping bag, mattress and towels (stolen towels will not be tolerated!), and my XYL's only request is that there be no smoking in the house. If anyone wants a motel room, let me know ASAP - there is another event in Findlay that weekend and room space will be tight.

A map to my QTH is included in this issue. Most of you will come by I-75 and get off at the Mt. Cory exit, which is the first exit south of Findlay (about 10 miles). Take route 235 north to the stop light in the center of Mt. Cory (not the flashing blinker light) and turn left on County Road 26. NBET is about one quarter mile from the light on the right side of CR 26. The name and number (2716 CR 26) are on the mail box and the tribander next to the barn is the only one in town. I will leave a 2M radio on 146.52 simplex and will try to have another on the Findlay repeater on 147.15/.75.

Let me know if you are coming - I can be found on the Monday Nite Net, via a letter, or at home (419) 477-5378. If you can't reach me or decide to come at the last minute, come on anyway - we'll just make smaller hamburgers and add some water to the beer.

73 &amp; CU there

Bill NBET

## MRRC MEETING REPORT - NOARSFEST

23 members signed the attendance list at the Mad River Radio Club meeting held on July 21 at NOARSFEST. The following points of business were discussed:

1. Treasurer KBNZ reported \$216 in the treasury.
2. The next meeting will be held at the Findlay, Ohio Hamfest on September 9. The hamfest is located at the Hancock County Recreation Center at the north end of town. Use the County Road 99 exit off I-75, then go south about a block on Main Street. From any other route, find Main Street and head to the north end of town - the Rec Center is on the west side of the road just south of C.R. 99. Don't forget the informal get-together the night before at the NBET QTH, details elsewhere in this issue.
3. The idea of regional get-togethers was discussed. The first will be the gathering at NBET. Several other people expressed a willingness to host one at their QTH - hopefully they will follow through and set a date.
4. NBET reminded everyone about the questionnaire in the most recent 'Flash'. Please take the time to fill it out and mail it to NBET - as of July 31, about ten have been received.
5. The possibility of a club repeater was discussed, and it was agreed that the idea has merit. WD8LLD will be putting up a repeater near Wooster that could possibly be used, also NBDE is putting up a machine in SE Indiana on 144.75/145.35 which should be up by the time you read this. Other machines mentioned were WD8DRZ/Cleveland - 145.47, WA8PKB/Cleveland - 147.015, WB8JI/Toledo - 147.975 and W8FT/Findlay - 147.15. Let prez NBET know which, if any, of these repeaters you can hit.
6. A question was raised about the frequency of the Monday Nite Net held on 3825 kHz, which is not available to General Class ops. Since there was only one General Class present at the meeting, it was decided to leave the time & frequency as is for now, but perhaps a survey of the membership is in order - also, what effect will there be with new sub-bands on Sept. 1?
7. The recent National Contest Journal contained a proposal for a 'Contester's Code of Ethics'. Club members present unanimously agreed that this is completely unnecessary. K8CC will compose a letter to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee registering our club's opposition to the proposal, to be signed by president NBET. Members are also urged to voice their opposition individually to any or all League officials.
8. It was proposed that one of the four annual MRRC meetings be held in Michigan, to reflect the portion of members that live there. Everyone felt that this was a good idea - however, no consensus was reached as to which meeting would be replaced. Dayton and the KBMR Christmas Party will remain on the schedule, so either Findlay or NOARSFEST will be replaced by a meeting in Michigan. Suggested sites & times for a Michigan meeting included the Livonia Amateur Radio Club Swapfest in February, or the Michigan State ARRL Convention in June. Please make NBET, KBNZ or K8CC aware of your preference before the Findlay meeting.

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## NOARSFEST Report (cont.)

9. It was decided to compete in the Unlimited Class in the ARRL Sweepstakes Affiliated Club Competition this fall. To help us do as well as possible, five area 'whips' have volunteered to be responsible for ensuring maximum participation from their local area. This will involve more than just encouraging people to participate, they will try to see that everyone has a place to operate from and that each station has the needed equipment for the weekend(s). The volunteers are:

KBNZ - Cleveland, NE Ohio & WPA	KBND - Columbus & Central Ohio
WBFN - Dayton & Southern Ohio	KBCC - Michigan
NBET - Findlay, NW Ohio and everywhere else	

It was a good meeting with a lot of discussion. Hope to see most of you at Findlay.

73

Bill NBET

## 1985 DAYTON HAMVENTION PLANNING

Our semi-official Dayton arranger W8LNO has come up with a suite and twenty rooms at the Downtown Stouffer's hotel for the 1985 Hamvention. Joe has sold nine rooms and needs to know if twenty will be sufficient. To date, the LNO reservation system shows KBCC with two doubles, the 'Z' brothers KBNZ & AZ with a double, KBMR with a single and the 'Big Fish' with a double. Of course, the W8LNO traveling road show has absorbed four rooms leaving the balance of eleven, mixed singles and doubles.

The prices are mid fifties for a single and ten bucks or so more for a double. If you are interested, drop a letter in the mail to Joe at his CBA. Please do not attempt to handle your reservations by telephone or on the Monday Nite Net because it will most certainly get messed up. In February, Joe will make a final survey, get a major credit card number from each reservation holder and process the whole mess with the hotel.

Most of the supplies needed for the 1985 affair are safely stored away in Westerville; however, we will need a suite general manager and several club members to work on promotion, displays, theme, etc. Our honorable President will be recruiting for those positions so we can get a headstart this year and have a well organized and successful event.

## MAD RIVER FINDLAY MEETING

The MRRC Findlay meeting will be will be at 11:30 AM on September 9, 1984 in the (only) meeting room at the Hamfest. Remember, Findlay will be the last MRRC meeting before the contest season begins. In order to be eligible for SS, you must have attended at least two meetings since Findlay '83, or half the meetings since you became a member. The program will be by Goose Steingass WD8LLD on 40M phased vertical systems. Goose works in the BC antenna industry and has had good results with his system at WD8LLD, so it should be a good program.



# AUTOMATIC BANDSWITCHING WITH THE TS830S by Jim Stahl KBMR

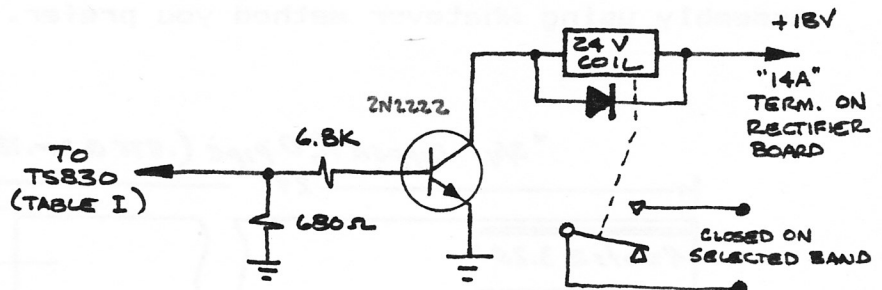
Using the bandswitch in the TS830S to control an external relay for switching antennas or amplifiers is a relatively simple matter. Section 1 of the bandswitch (S1-1) switches 9 VDC on each band to the counter board. This voltage can be used to drive a transistor interface and 24 VDC relay which in turn controls a 115 VAC Dow Key relay which switches the TS830S output, amplifier keying and ALC lines to the appropriate amplifier.

Information for each band is given in Table 1. J3 and J4 are in parallel except for 10M, where only J3 provides the voltage we are looking for. The connection can be made to the counter board at the anode (board side) of the appropriate diode - there are other points which may be as convenient. A 12 VDC relay powered from the +12 VDC supply could probably be used, but 24 VDC relays tend to be cheaper and by using the circuit shown, the relay coil current is not added to the load of the power supply regulator.

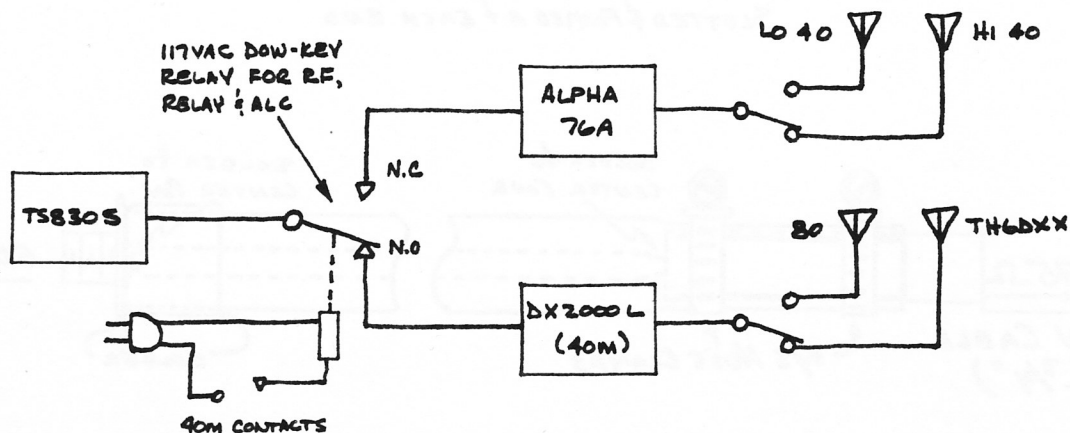
Only the 40M relay has been installed at KBMR. My station currently has two amplifiers, dipoles on 80 and 40, and a tribander. In domestic contests I use one amp exclusively on 40, and the second amp for all the other bands. With 40 and only one other band (or tribander) active at any time period, one switch and a quick peaking of the TS830S gives a quick and easy QSY.

BAND	CONN/PIN	DIODE
1.8	J4 - 2	-
3.5	J4 - 3	57
7	J4 - 4	55
14	J4 - 6	58
21	J4 - 8	30
28	J3 - 10	39

TABLE 1



SCHEMATIC OF RELAY INTERFACE



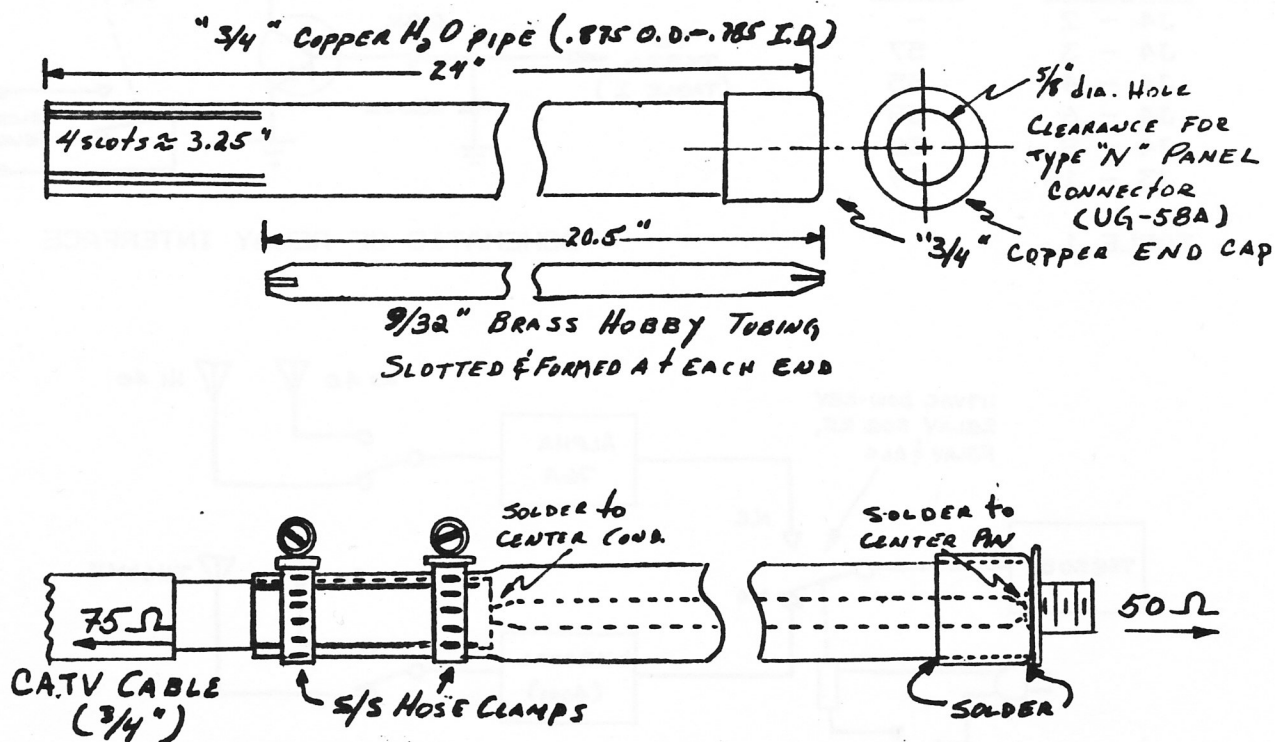
STATION CONFIGURATION at KBMR

BUILDING 50 TO 75 OHM 'Q' SECTIONS  
 by Chuck Smallhouse WA6MGZ  
 (reprinted from the October 1982 Lunar Letter)

Editors Note: Most of us have some sort of VHF system, if only 2M FM. With the recent discussion concerning the proposed MRRC repeater, this article can help you save some bucks on your next VHF feedline.

Cut four wide slots about 3.5" long in one end of the water pipe. Then, cut a 5/8" hole centered in the end of the 3/4" end cap and solder to the unslotted end of the copper pipe. Prepare the brass tubing center conductor by carefully slotting each end in four places about 5/16" long. Form each end to make a snug fit over the hardline center conductor and the 'N' connector center pin.

Prepare the hardline to expose 1/4" of center conductor and about 4" of shield - clean both surfaces and tin the center conductor. Slide the appropriate end of the brass tubing over the center conductor and solder. Slide the copper tubing & cap assembly over the hardline far enough to solder the brass tubing to the 'N' connector center pin. Now slide the copper tubing forward until the end cap butts against the connector. Securely fasten the slotted section of the copper pipe to the hardline shield with two or three hose clamps. Solder the 'N' flange to the end cap using a torch, flux and plenty of solder. Finally, waterproof the assembly using whatever method you prefer.



75 to 50 ohm matching section for 144 MHz

August 15, 1984

TO: ARRL Contest Advisory Committee

FROM: The Mad River Radio Club

RE: Proposed Contest Code of Ethics

Gentlemen:

The July 1984 issue of the National Contest Journal published a suggested 'Contest Code of Ethics' authored by George Schultz WØUA. Dave Pruett K8CC, the Great Lakes Division CAC representative has informed us that this code is under consideration for adoption by the League as a guideline for operating in ARRL contests.

The Mad River Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club for contest and competitive-minded amateurs, whose members comprise the largest constituency of contesters in the Great Lakes Division. At its July 22, 1984 meeting, MRRC members voted unanimously against the need for any 'code of ethics' for the contest community, for the following reasons:

1. The Code is unnecessary - Published contest and FCC rules are sufficient to legislate contest operating and activity.
2. The Code is unenforceable - Should a violation of the code be committed, who shall be the judge? Should there be agreement on the violation, who shall set the penalty, if any?
3. The Code will be ineffective - Those whose actions violate the code are unlikely to heed it. Those who recognize the code, don't need it to be legislated upon them.

In addition, the need for a 'Contest Code of Ethics' is viewed as a political placebo offered to appease the non-contest community for their complaints of contest QRM disrupting their amateur activities. We object to the perceived lack of ethical behavior by the contest community, and feel the creation of a 'code of ethics' for contesters amounts to a de facto admission of guilt.

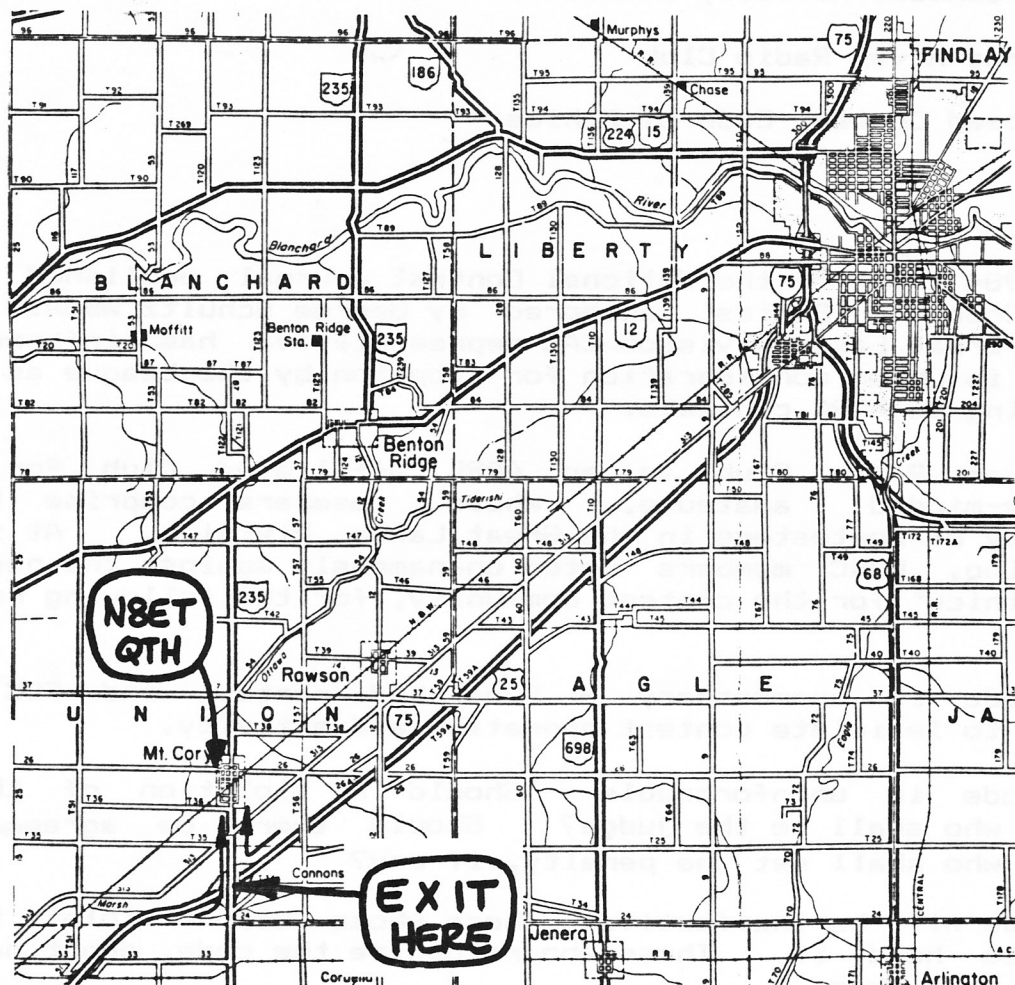
This letter is not an objection to the precepts embodied in the proposed code, nor with its author. The Mad River Radio Club wholeheartedly endorses these standards and seeks to encourage these practices from its members. However, we feel that the contest community itself, and specifically local contesters, are best enabled to deal with situations requiring ethical judgement, for which we need no further rules.

Sincerely

William M. Kelsey NBET  
MRRC President



## MAP TO NBET QTH



Mad River Radio Club  
 33136 Hampshire Rd.  
 Livonia, MI 48154

DAVE PRUETT  
 33136 HAMPSHIRE RD.  
 LIVONIA, MI

KBCC  
 48154 D