

the

SPECIAL HAMVENTION ISSUE

edited by
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[illegible]

DAYTON '85

Wow! Less than a month to Mecca. The rooms are all rented, and to make things worse, the Admiral Benbo has closed its doors, as your Editor promised, with only seven weeks notice to all those unhappy souls who thought they were going to be staying there. If you don't have a room and want to go to the Hamvention-- forget it!

MRRC will host a hospitality suite at the Stoffer Hotel on both Friday and Saturday night during the Hamvention. We will be present in Suite 1211, anxiously awaiting our radio friends as well as those who always seem to "dump it in" just when you have a good run going. We, of course, need lots of volunteers to staff the operation and some extra cash to cover the inevitable deficit from the concession we will run. Forms for response to these needs are included on the last page of the 'Flash'. Those who worked the suite last year know what a great time it is. As to the cash question, please send what you can. It adds up!

There will be several questions posed at the business meeting on Saturday at 2:00 PM in Room 5 at the Arena. Among the more significant:

- ```

*** Election of Officers
$$$ Continuance of KBNZ as Treasurer
??? Participation by MRRC in '86 TDXS ARMADILLO RUN (see article)
Presentation of awards
@@@ Suggested organizational changes to make MRRC more fun, AND
any other matters which members deem appropriate.

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If you don't plan to attend the entire Hamvention, be sure to come on Saturday to attend this important club meeting.

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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 W8LND at the address shown on the masthead. Join the Mad River Net on 3825 Khz at 8:30 Eastern each Monday evening.

**THE GREAT TEXAS ARMADILLO RUN OF 1986**

Beginning in 1983, the Texas DX Society (TDXS) has participated with the County Hunters to activate large numbers of counties in the great southwest during the CW weekend of the County Hunters' contest. In 1983 TDXS put every one of the 254 Texas counties on the air and sponsored a sub-event won by K1ZX. Jim will forever be known as 'Dillo Killer by all who attended the 1983 ARRL National Convention in Houston, the site of the awards presentation. Jim attended as a guest of TDXS. In 1984 the South Texas Crazies activated all counties in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. Quite a display of mobilization.

Everyone knows how many Texas Aggies it takes to eat an Armadillo; however, no one is quite sure how many mobile stations it will take to activate every county in this USA during the 1986 County Hunters Contest. That is the goal of TDXS for the 1986 celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Lone Star State.

Tom Taormina, K5RC, is soliciting the support of clubs such as MRRC to give the TDXS a hand in reaching the lofty goal of putting every county in the lower 48 on for the CHC. Only those with airplanes should volunteer for Montana. As a club, we could tackle Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. I suspect that between home stations and two man mobile units, probably four, we could handle it over the CW and SSB weekends of the CHC. I would imagine that they will come up with some sub-contest to make it more interesting for the mobilizers.

Some will ask, why should I do this? Darned if I know, but it does sound like fun. Think it over. We'll have plenty of time to talk it over before we need to make a decision. It is an unusual but a very good club activity. de W8LND

**ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

Clubs need a base of active members if they are to sustain themselves over time and serve as a source of pride and enjoyment for their members. MRRC has somehow survived the trama of SweepStakes disqualification, years of low activity, and the disgusting photofinish with the North Texas Contest Club for the 1983 SS gavel.

The Club has enjoyed good leadership, considerable comradeship and an increasing legion of loyal, but aging, members. If all parts of the MRRC service area are to thrive it seems important that a regional organization be created. Such an organization would facilitate rallying the troops for club contest competition, provide a source of local contact for those building or repairing stations, and in the long run, cause the Club to improve and grow.

K8CC advises that there is considerable interest nationally in changing the rules which govern club membership requirements, attendance of meetings, etc. There are things we can do now to make the best of the current, unfortunate rules and to be positioned to prosper in an improved environment. de W8LND

ARRL DX CW from Honduras  
by Dave Pruett KBCC/HR1DAP

Is there a DX contester on the face of this earth who hasn't sat in a Caribbean pileup and momentarily dreamed of being at the other end? The 1984 ARRL DX CW Contest was my opportunity to sample 'the good life' where the runs (hopefully) never go dry. My brother Tom WB8VMN/HR1 was getting married in Tegucigalpa on the Saturday before the contest, so it seemed like the perfect chance to hang around for a week and be DX. The Honduran government will not issue a HR call to non-residents, so I expected to be KBCC/HR1 as I was on my last trip down there in 1979. However, Tom managed to get Hondutel (the Honduran FCC) to grant me a two week license as HR1DAP. With a regular call in use, the trip was definitely ON!

Preparations started with the purchase of a used FT107M XCVR to take along since I didn't cherish the thought of hand carrying a C-Line for a day of traveling on three airline flights. My passport was renewed, and \$500 purchased a round trip airplane ticket. I packed my trusty 1976 vintage Accu-memory & paddle, a digital clock, headphones and PLENTY of logsheets. I took along wire and antenna parts to make low-band antennas, but I couldn't be sure what could be implemented until I saw Tom's yard.

My parents had gone down three days earlier to help with wedding preparations. I traveled by myself, trusty FT107M under one arm, the other carrying a garment bag with my wedding clothes, film and other wedding necessities which could not be risked to the airlines. This was a wise precaution since one of my suitcases didn't arrive for three days. Detroit to Atlanta on Eastern and get off. Atlanta to New Orleans on Eastern and get off. In New Orleans, my garment bag broke while I was doing my best O. J. Simpson act running from one end of the airport to the other. Finally, TAN Airlines from New Orleans to V3-land and at last to HR1. We arrived late 15 minutes before nightfall - had it been dark, we would have been diverted to YS1 since Tegucigalpa has no ILS or runway lights. What fun !!

Tom's wedding was the next day, the Saturday before the contest. Everything went as planned, but punctual is not in the Honduran vocabulary. Forty-five minutes before the wedding, the bride is at the hairdressers and her dress is ten miles away. They came down the aisle forty-five minutes late, but that was OK since guests were still arriving anyway. Two receptions (one Spanish, one English), then the bride and groom were off for a three day honeymoon.

My next three days were spent reconnoitering the backyard, which measured about 30 feet by 30 feet. Tom had a 40' tower with a rotary Classic 36 on top. On my 1979 trip, I had left behind a 40M dipole and 100' of RG58. These items were located and in short order I had a 40M quarter wave sloper from the tower top. It tuned up OK, and I spent that evening on 40M CW signing WB8VMN/HR1 since my license wasn't valid until the following day. Flushed with success, the next morning I added a 40M Unadilla trap and the remaining wire to make the antenna an 80/40 sloper. This combination also tuned up OK, and I was beginning to believe that we might be ready.

On Wednesday, Tom and his wife returned and my parents were put on a plane for home. The next day, we wired up his L4B to the 220 VAC service - with the FT107 driving it on the CW position, the amp ran cool and delivered 800 reliable watts to the antenna. The last remaining project and major unknown was a 160 meter antenna.

On Friday, the morning of the contest, local circumstances required that I was awake at 1200Z - I would have preferred to have slept much of that day to get ready for the marathon. I managed to get the shuntfeed system installed on the tower as outlined in the April 1984 MRRRC 'Flash'. It tuned up nicely but I had no idea how well it would work with no radials and only a single 4' ground rod. Also, the L4B doesn't work on 160, so I was barefoot on that band.

Its 2300Z and I'm on 20M CW running guys and getting warmed up. There's Dan N8DCJ over at 8P6G, says that I had better work hard because he's gonna win - just who does this guy think he is? It's 0000Z and here we go - W5FD 599 KW - the first ten minutes produces 32 QSOs - WOW, is this fun. The first hour on 20M is 171 QSOs, and the pile dried up once or twice. The next hour is 151, then 144 with a band change to 40M. That little sloper really works - I pick my spot and take off. The first full hour on 40 is another 144, then 120 and 126. Its amazing how many CQs you have to call and still turn in two per minute. 8P6G opens up on me and refuses to go away - at least people are still calling me and he eventually leaves. At 0600Z it's time to see how well the 160M antenna works.

160 is reasonably quiet, but not much going on. Drop the L4B off-line and try a CQ - no answer. Another, no answer. Oh no, without a reasonable 160 multiplier I'm gonna get beat bad. One more CQ - ah, there's N4IN calling from FL, then GA and TX - at least I'll have three mults. Then W3BGN calls in and he must have put me out on 2M FM because it all breaks loose - KN30, W3LPL, K3ZUF and AA1K/3 in DE along with KSBS (who?) for QSO #10. Then the W1s and W2s start and I begin to believe the antenna might actually work. The entire 06Z hour was spent on 160 which only produced 34 QSOs, but 16 multipliers including almost all of W1, W2 and W3.

I decide to stay up all night - the adreneline is pumping and I'm not sleepy. Up to 80 meters at 07Z. First hour 92, then 114 between 80 and 40 and its back to 160. The 09Z hour only produces 24 QSOs, but ten more mults which I'm grateful for. I decide to spend shorter times at the beginning of the hour on 160, then finish the hour on 80. This works well and I move NBII, N4KG and N5DX to 160 for three more mults - I finish the first night with 85 QSOs and 29 multipliers on that band with which I am pleased.

12Z and its time to follow the MUF upwards. The nighttime rates were all in the 80 to 90 range, due to all that slow 160 time. I work my way up through 80 and 40 - each runs well for a few minutes, then the customers go away and I reach for the bandswitch. The 13Z hour on 20M produces 122 QSOs - that's more like it. 15M starts at 14Z, a 110 hour then 127 and 140. I hit 10 meters at 1643Z - the next 17 minutes nets 53 QSOs - hot dog! The 17Z hour is 162, then 146 and it is apparent the band is only open south.



In the 19Z hour the FT107M develops a problem - the rig would go to transmit but there is no drive on the ALC meter and no output. Pounding on the rig sometimes helps, but the rate drops to 99 for that hour while I operate and troubleshoot at the same time. I take the top cover off the rig and it seems to settle down but the problem is intermittent all weekend. 21 & 22Z produce 139 and 133 hours on 15M, 20M is good at 23Z and I finish the first day with 2800 QSOs.

I have been awake for 36 hours straight and at the radio for 24, save for brief sandwich jaunts and bathroom runs. 20M dries up earlier than the first night so its down to 40M. I must be more tired than I think, because I can tell my sending is getting sloppy. I made the mistake of not using my memory keyer more the first day and now my fist aches like crazy. Everyone who asks for a sked is told that 05Z will be 80M and 06Z will be 160M, I hope to survive that long. At 05Z, I stop for a sandwich - I feel like a zombie.

Back to the radio, and I get a really big pile going on 80M. I can tell stations are calling long and I must be hard to hear. The pile dries up about 0545Z, so I go to 160M early. One CQ and WHAM! - 40 minutes produces 34 QSOs and the 33rd multiplier. I hear a well known station who I know cheats on DXCC and runs a pair of 4-1000s - I deliberately ignore his calls. Finally, at 0625Z my brain gives out - I give the radio a loud raspberry and shut it off with the pack still calling.

Seven hours later and I wake to daylight. It's past 1300Z as I struggle to escape my coma and stumble to the radio. 20M is empty so I start on 15M. Oh-oh, the Europeans are louder than USA and the Ws must have their beams aimed NE. Every 200W station in Europe would rather work HR1 than W - a pity this isn't CQWW. I QSY to 10M hoping to escape EU and gain some attention, but the same reception awaits me there. The rate hovers between 80 & 90 until Europe dies around 1800Z. From then on its between 110 to 120 for a couple of hours on 10M and then its follow the MUF down again.

2200Z and the end is in sight. I've asked a couple of Dakotas to look for me - only one shows. Thirty minutes left and 20M goes dry. QSY to 40M, lots of stations but I guess everyone has worked me. W5XZ asks for a last minute sked on 160 - it's a mult for me too, and we work at 2358Z. Then, after 4361 QSOs, it's over!!!

I don't feel too bad. 3830 is a mess, and the Caribbean guys that I want to compare scores with don't show. Tom and his wife want to go see 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' - you gotta be kidding!

The next day its up at 1130Z for the trip from TGU to VP1 and finally New Orleans as I scan the logs for multipliers on the plane. I spend the afternoon with W5XZ, then it's Delta to Cincinnati and finally Detroit and home.

In the following months, after the duping and dust had settled, the results showed that I had won! The expense and effort (and the Montezuma's revenge) were worth it - the number one single op score in the world in the 1984 ARRL CW DX Test. Now I have a wonderful memory to recall while I sit in those Caribbean pileups.....

## DAYTON MEETING

The Dayton meeting of MRRC will begin at 2:00 PM in Room 5 at Hara Arena. Our use of the room terminates at 3:15 so it will be helpful to Pres. Kelsey if you notify him of discussion items prior to the meeting. Be sure to attend, and bring an extra \$5.00 to pay your dues. It will be fun watching the Big Fish try to finish the meeting in 75 minutes!

## MRRC QSL CARDS

Thanks to Sandy Duffy (Mrs. K3LR) Mad River QSL cards are now available. A display of the renderings will be on site at our Dayton Hospitality Suite for your appreciation and selection of the design of your choice. These are fine, multi-colored cards at a price lower than anything you will ever find. More information on ordering will be available at the Hamvention. Thanks, Sandy!

## CLUB HISTORY

Jim Stahl, K8MR, is busily chasing down facts, names and places and pulling together the colorful history of MRRC. Your editor hopes to have it typed and reproduced for the Hamvention.

## FROM THE BIG FISH

There are the last words from the current Big Fish. It has been another good year for MRRC. Our membership has taken a giant leap, and we had our best showing since 1971 in the Sweepstakes. Although the MRRC multi-op corps have dwindled, our single operator presence in the DX contests has improved. The coming season should be even better.

The Club has grown enough that I would like to suggest that the next Big Fish appoint at least three area vice presidents. Perhaps one from Cleveland, one from Detroit and one to cover the rest of the Mad River territory. These individuals would be responsible for several things: advising the Big Fish; rallying the members for contests; coordinating local events and meetings should they be considered necessary.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at Dayton this year at the MRRC Hospitality suite and at our meeting which will be held in Room 5 in Hara Arena at 2:00PM. I would like to wish next years officers the best of luck. I hope MRRC can continue growing and doing well in the tests we enter. de NBET, Bill Kelsey

**ARRL DX TEST CLAIMED SCORES**

CW WEEKEND--

K3LR 1285/290 1137K AB S/O  
 WBLND 625/215 400K AB S/O  
 K8CC 556/204 340K AB S/O  
 WD8IXE 525/227 358K AB S/O

KS8S 1740/354 1,800K M/D  
 WBLT 695/254 530K M/S

KBMR WAS AT KH6DW--2,800/254 FOR 1.8M multi single

SSB WEEKEND--

KS8S 760/105 239K 20 S/B (KUBE)  
 NBET 622/106 198K " "  
 WBLND 175/65 32K " "

K3LR 1122/298 1,000K M/S  
 WBLT 417/197 240K A/S  
 WB8JBM 1111/280 930K M/S

**K3LR MODERATES DAYTON EVENTS**

Tim Duffy reports the following schedule of topics and speakers for the forums he will moderate at the Hamvention.

Contests

The Contest Expedition to Zone 2, VE2USA CQWW 1984, Ted Rachwal, K8AQM  
 The Sport of Radio Contesting from the USSR, Tom Frenaye, K1KI  
 Contest receiver evaluations, Robert Sherwood, NC0B  
 The Illustrated guide to K2XR 160 meter contesting, Pete Putnam, KT2B  
 Steve Katz, WB2WIK; Mike Crawford, WA2VUN  
 Japanese Contest Stations and Hamfair '84, Doug Grant, K1DG  
 How to Stay Awake for 48 hours--DX contest strategy, Dick Norton, N6AA  
 Contesting From the UK, Nigel Cawthorne, G3TXF, GU3SXW, GJ0AAA  
 QRZ Contest, The Frankford Radio Club, Joe Clayton, W2REH  
 CQ VHF Contest Criteria, Putnam and Katz  
 Construction and Design, The W9ZR M/M Station, Dave Zeph, W9ZR  
 The KCDXC Pile Up Contest Tape (Bring your own pencil and paper, K0RWL  
 Upgrades for 3-500Z Amplifiers, Robert Sherwood, NC0B  
 CQ Magazine Contest Awards, CQ Contest Committee  
 Not Ready for Prime Time Contesting, Doug Grant, K1DG; Rich Gielber, K2WR

Antenna Forum

The World's Largest Antenna, Arecibo Observatory  
 Mini-Nec Computer Code Updates, Dr. James Breakhall, WA3FET/6  
 Superior Mobile Antennas, Part II, Robert Sherwood, NC0B  
 Antennas, Towers and Feedlines, Alan B. Caplan, W0RIC, Hy-Gain  
 Here's how to put up Yagi antennas, Construction and Results, Dr. Bill  
 Maxson, N4AR

Looks like a great line-up! Remember the Contest Forum is Saturday AM.

**SPRINT RUMORS**

Conditions for the CW Sprint were poor, at best. Strange skip on 80 meters and a shortage of multipliers left the veteran 8-land crew shaking its head. Mad River member scores included:

| CALL         | Q's | MULTS | EXCUSES                 |
|--------------|-----|-------|-------------------------|
| K3LR         | 270 | 36    | TOWERS NOT CRANKED UP   |
| K8CC         | 261 | 40    |                         |
| W8LND        | 250 | 37    |                         |
| K8MR         | 248 | 39    |                         |
| KW8N         | 232 | 38    |                         |
| KU8E         | 226 | 40    | FANTASTIC WITH NO BEAMS |
| K8NZ         | 222 | 34    |                         |
| W8FN         | 217 | 40    |                         |
| N8DE         | 193 | 39    |                         |
| W8LT (K8BNS) | 194 | 34    |                         |
| N8ET         | 183 | 37    |                         |
| WM4T         | 145 | 36    |                         |

This was the first Sprint for Mike, K8BNS. He did very well for his first attempt. LND and K8BNS were on Popgun teams. The rest of the MRRC types were on the K8CC Motley Crew teams. It looks like the team competition will be a real horse race between the Motley Crew, TDXS, and WASP.

Scores are listed in order of descending QSO'S so that W8LND will come out higher on the list. It has taken four years of practice and station improvements to reach the 250 Q level. I still get killed on 80 meters. Maybe next season.

**W9NXD/HR2 WINS DX TEST PLAQUE**

Rev. Dale Holloway sent a very nice 'thank you' letter for the ARRL CW DX Test plaque, world high 3.5Mhz, sponsored by Mad River Radio Club. Dale received the plaque on March 18. His letter will make you very pleased that we sponsor the award. Perhaps MRRC should increase its participation. Dale's letter has been reproduced on Page 10 of this issue.

**DR. BARKEY TO IU**

Pat barkey, W8BYVR, will complete his Doctorate at The University of Michigan this summer and take up residence in Bloomington, Indiana in August. Pat will be a member of the Business School faculty at Indiana University.

Although a DX contesting station may be a few years down the road, Pat is looking forward to Sweepstakes from Nine-land. Good Luck, Pat.



# DESIGN ELECTRONICS OHIO RECEIVER GUARD 2000

\* \* \* NOW BEING USED BY ACTIVE AMATEURS FOR THE FOLLOWING \* \* \*

Protection from nearby transmitters running high power

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Multi transmitter contest stations

LESS THAN 0.3db INSERTION LOSS - WILL NOT DEGRADE RECEIVER PERFORMANCE

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5 year warranty EXCEPT protection element

RECEIVER GUARD IS USED IN SERIES WITH THE RECEIVE PATH OF THE RADIO  
AND MAY BE USED WITH POPULAR TRANSCEIVERS SUCH AS: KENWOOD 930, 830 AND  
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ANY ONE OF THE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL AMPLIFIERS, HOMEBREW  
TOO! PIN DIODES PROVIDE ULTRA HIGH SPEED, NOISELESS SWITCHING. ALL  
YOU NEED TO DO IS CONNECT TWO RF CABLES AND TWO CONTROL CABLES, TURN  
IT ON AND YOU ARE READY TO GO, UP TO 1500 WATTS AT 1.5-1 VSWR. FULLY  
AUTOMATIC BAND SWITCHING, 1.8 -30 MHz AND MODE SELECTION, NO CABLES TO  
CHANGE. ELIMINATES AMPLIFIER DAMAGE DUE TO "HOT SWITCHING" AND GIVES  
YOU FULL RECEIVER PERFORMANCE WITH AN INSERTION LOSS LESS THAN 0.7 db,  
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## DESIGN ELECTRONICS OHIO

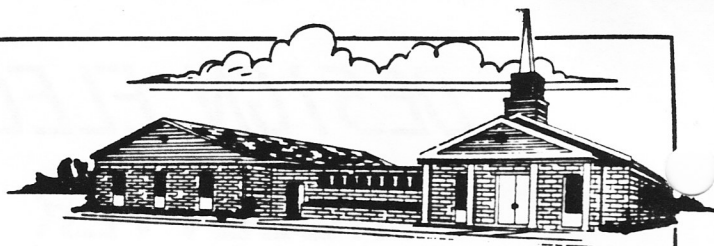
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SEE US AT HAMVENTION BOOTH 347

## West Locke Wesleyan Church

2652 Haslett Road Williamston, Michigan 48895

(517) 655-2202



March 19, 1985

Mad River Radio Club  
c/o Joe E. Warden, W8LNO  
28 South Hemstead Road  
Westerville, OH 43081

Dear Radio Club:

Yesterday I received my plaque for winning the World 3.5 MHz CW portion of the 1984 ARRL DX contest. From the bottom of my heart I wish to take this opportunity to thank the MRRC for making possible this beautiful plaque. It is something I will always cherish.

You might be interested to know something of my operations in Honduras. Our family first went there as missionaries in 1975. At that time we lived in Tegucigalpa where I used my original call of K8WHB/HR1, and for a brief period was assigned HR1DH. Since we were on a one-year special assignment from our mission board, we returned stateside in 1976. We moved to Indiana with our headquarters and my call was changed to W9NXD. In 1981 we left for one year of language study in Costa Rica (W9NXD/TI2) and in 1982 we again arrived in Honduras, this time in San Pedro Sula. Because of the political situation it took me a few months to get back on the air. But in December 1982 I was operating once again as W9NXD/HR2.

Honduras is a great place for contesting, and our qth on a mountain on the west side of San Pedro Sula was excellent. I entered several contests, never really giving it much of an effort, but always placing well and, of course, winning for Honduras. I finally decided to give the 1984 ARRL DX contest my best shot. Not having the time to commit my days to it, I decided to work just 80 meters. As you can see, my 100 watts from a TS-120S and G5RV antenna at only about 20 feet were more than enough to win it. What fun!

We returned stateside last August and I am now pastoring a church near Lansing, Michigan. Upon returning I upgraded and changed my call to NJ8X.

Again I want to thank you for the plaque and encourage you to continue making various hams feel, at least temporarily, very special.

Sincerely,

*Dale Holloway*  
Dale Holloway

NJ8X (ex-W9NXD/HR2)

**HOSPITALITY SUITE**

Most of the arrangements for the Dayton hospitality suite have been handled; however, there are the usual last minute details to be attended by our President. To guarantee the financial future of Mad River and to ensure the success of our event please complete the form following this paragraph and return it to WBLND A.S.A.P. Your cash contribution should be sent to:

RON HARPS, KBNZ  
8321 EDGEWOOD ROAD  
MENTOR, OHIO 44060

Your generous support, both time and money, will be most helpful to the cause!

\*\*\*\*\*

Joe E. Warden, WBLND  
28 South Hemstead Road  
Westerville, Ohio 43081

To support the MRRC Hospitality Suite at the 1985 Hamvention I am willing to ----

1. Be a suite worker at:      1900-2100 EST \_\_\_\_\_  
                                         2100-2300    "    \_\_\_\_\_  
                                         2300-close   "    \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH NIGHT, OR BOTH.

2. Make a monetary contribution. I have sent \$\_\_\_\_\_ to KBNZ.

3. Comments

## HOSPITALITY SUITE--HAMVENTION '85

The Mad River Radio Club will sponsor a Hospitality Suite, Room 1211, Stoffer's Inn, Dayton, Ohio on Friday and Saturday evenings during the Hamvention. The Suite will open at 8:00PM both nights and close when the attendees allow it to happen!

The purpose of the suite is to provide a gathering place for amateurs interested in contesting and otherwise reduce the workload of Dayton's finest.

Many of the 'big names' in contesting will be on hand. Stop by, see your friends, make some new ones, and have some fun.

This edition of the MRRC Flash is being mailed to non-member testers in the MRRC service area to stimulate interest in the event.

+++++  
Mad River Radio Club  
28 South Hemstead Road  
Westerville, Ohio 43081



DAVE PRUETT K8CC  
TOM PRUETT W8BVMN  
33136 HAMPSHIRE RD.  
LIVONIA, MI 48154 D