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edited by
Joe Warden, WBLND
28 S. Hemstead Rd.
Westerville, OH 43081

the official journal of the MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB
the world's most entertaining contest club

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President: Randy Farmer, WBFN
919 Leatherwood Drive
New Carlisle, OH 45344
(513) 845-3331

Treasurer: Ron Harps, K8NZ
8321 Edgewood Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060
(216) 255-7205

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from the DEPARTMENT OF FISCINE PHILOSOPHY by W8FN

Another Dayton radio pig-out is behind us and the railcar bearing the new Big Fish has come and gone, leaving this time an especially large one. My thanks for your vote of confidence; I will strive to fill the shoes left by NSET.

It may seem too early, but how is the time to start gearing up for the 1985/86 contest season. I hope everyone I saw packing those giant tubes, antenna parts and assorted Japanese doo-dads away from Dayton has plans to get them plugged in and going by fall. If we are going to step forward and accept challenges for SweepStakes and ARRL DX club competitions everyone will have to hump it. We shall make it club policy to whup up on folks this year! I have been buttonholed already to the effect that we should make a bigger push in the DX tests, and that is fine with me.

We definitely have our work cut out for us in this endeavor; just take a look at the results from 1984. Simply put, we don't have a prayer unless we can get super-organized. I don't know how many entries we had last year, but as I recall it wasn't near the 50 log maximum allowed under the Medium Club rules. All of the DX people should be stirring already. Is there a good local op you know who goes pretty serious in the DX tests? Recruit him! Do you know a good op who is stuck with a poor location or antenna? Let's try to line him up with one of the multiop efforts. If we want this one, we'll need to work on it real hard -- time's a-wasting!

Per the vote at the Dayton meeting, I am beginning to appoint Vice Presidents for coordination and general agitation in the various hot spots of club activity. As of this writing we have the following: Northeast Ohio - KBMR; Findlay/Toledo - NBET; Southwest Ohio/Northern Kentucky - KUBE; Southern Michigan - KBCC. We need volunteers to handle Columbus/Central Ohio, Eastern Indiana, and Western Pennsylvania. If you are interested please let me hear from you as soon as possible. *****CONTINUED ON PAGE 4*****

The MRRRC 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.

CONTESTING, HAWAIIAN STYLE Jim Stahl, KBNR

My recent operation from KH6DW in the ARRL CW DX Contest began ordinarilly enough, by looking for a suitable island in the Carribean. But since my last visit south one new twist was discovered: the plices there in February are not just the high winter season rates, but the super high peak of winter rates. All those alluring package deals quietly disappear in February. Hawaii, on the other hand, seems not to have discovered this concept, so it became the affordable and available alternative. After some last minute scheduling problems, my wife Linda and I settled, only two weeks in advance, on an itinerary which included most of the contest weekend in Maui.

Although preparing to once again lug radios through airports, on the suggestion of NSET I contacted NCCC member Ron Chiappari, N6AUV, to check out any possible KH6 connections. Ron, grateful for Bill's help in getting NCCCer W6OAT set up with VP9AD for the February Sprint, was glad to help. His idea was to try Ron, AH6AZ. He called and left a message with AZ's answering machine, which then took several days and several missed phone calls to learn that VE7DD was coming out to operate from Ron's station, but that not far away KH6DW's recently built station was not committed. The final word for me to operate from DW came at 1:30am the morning we were getting up at 5:30 to catch the 8:30 flight to Hawaii. In the middle of the night I was repacking my suitcase, taking only a keyer, headphones, and HT.

After five pleasant days in Honolulu, we arrived in Maui the Wednesday before the contest. The next day I stopped by KH6DW's QTH and found Frank in the back yard working on antennas. Around us was an impressive array of hardware: three 70 foot crankups with 6el KLMs for 10, 15, and 20; a 4el KLM 40; a dipole on 80 and a still under construction inverted L for 160. Inside was likewise impressive. The former two car garage had four stations, with a TS-930S, several TS-430's, TL-922's and an L4-B. In short, it was a station that could make some noise in the contest.

Frank had put this together since the previous October. His aim is to have the station available to visiting hams on a rental basis, whether short-term casual operators or serious contest efforts. Frank was eager to see how the station would perform in its first contest. I was eager for some good pileups.

Since I left Cleveland a second familiar call had signed up for the weekend. Danny, K7SS, who is in Maui trying to set up a business as part of his plan to trade wet Washington for sunny Hawaii, was also going to stop by. Together we decided to try a semi-serious multi-single effort. He also agreed to bring along his IC-740, since none of Frank's rigs had CW filters. We set up using two rigs, Dan's and the TS-930 with the VBT cranked to its narrowest.

When the contest started at 2pm local, I was out with Linda playing tourist, and Dan was on 20 running 140 per hour. When I showed up at 4:30, Dan had just gone to 40. I took over and had two hours of about 150 per. As things were slowing up I had my time warp of the weekend. The setting sun was coming through the window, the clock said 0430z (midnight EST!), and a "nighttime" band (fourty) was showing signs of being worked out! Soon after Dan took over while we went out to dinner. Returning, I took over and continued to plug away on 80 and 40 while Frank and Dan discovered that the 160 antenna had big problems, namely noise and inability to tune properly. When I left for the night at 0800Z, we had over a thousand QSOs but only 3 on 160.

Fortunately the next morning 15 opened reasonably well, with rates in the 140 range. We checked 10 often, but heard nothing other than KH6XX in Oahu. Later in the day we made the normal progression to 20, the 40 and 80. The 160 antenna was now tuning, but still very noisy. Dan managed to scrape out another 25 mults, but I've been told we just couldn't hear a lot of stuff calling. By 0800Z my CQs on 80 and 40 were getting more answers from JAs than from Ws. I spent a bit of time tuning around, listening to several JA's and WL7E calling CQ on 80 with S9 signals in KH6 but no answers from the states. Around 1000Z I finally packed it in, and said goodbye to Frank and Dan. Dan finished up the contest Sunday as Linda and I did our last sightseeing before catching our flight back to Honolulu and the mainland.

Our final breakdown:

BAND	QSOs	MULTS	
160	65	28	
80	371	51	
40	732	50	
20	715	53	FINAL SCORE: 1,903,680
15	758	55	
10	3	3	OPERATING TIME, 30 HOURS
TOTALS	2,644	240	

With the appropriate caveats about one visit an expert not making, here a few observations on operating from KH6: the 8's are louder than the 1's. the sixes and sevens are of course much louder than anyone else. 40 opens several hours before sunset, drops after sunset, and then picks up again (I'm told) as the sun rises on the eastern end. Signals this weekend were in there, but not especially loud. A lot of East coast big guns were not much above the noise on 80, at least when I worked them between the two peaks. The difference between the big guns and little pistols is more pronounced than from the Caribbean. KS8S is loud out there!

Hawaii is probably not the place to go if winning the contest is your only concern. But it is DX, and operating from there is fun. It is of course a very pleasant place to visit, with the tropical atmosphere and without the third world type aggravations which can be found in many parts of the Caribbean. There are real supermarkets, McDonalds, and bank-in-the-box machines. Hawaii gets a high XYL rating. Checkbook permitting, I may be back there again. Aloha!

from the DEPARTMENT OF PISCINE PHILOSOPHY continued

Due to circumstances beyond my control for the last time this year, I was unable to spend much time at our hospitality suite. From all the reports I've received and the three hours I was there Friday night, it went exceptionally well, and our erstwhile Treasurer even reports we didn't go as far in the hole as we did last year. Plans are already afoot to do it up bigger and better next year under the auspices of NBDet. Many thanks to W8LND for honchoing the suite the last two years, and we are especially in his debt for his convincing the Stouffer's management we were a bunch of uptown executive types instead of just another bunch of those horrible old ham radio yahoos. What they don't know probably won't hurt 'em. Next year the Hamvention committee will be handling the suites so we may not be able to shuck them like we did this year - we shall see.

I hope to see everyone at the June 15 meeting under the spreading aluminum trees at W8UA's place. This will be our final opportunity to get pumped up for Field Day (which is discussed at considerable length elsewhere in this issue) and plan for how we're going to take it to 'em this winter in SS and the DX tests. We also need to be thinking about how we plan to pull off the Armadillo Run next year. Knowing this bunch, however, I suspect we'll mostly get on the outside of some cold beer and swap stories well into the night. A good time will surely be had by all, so y'all come!

I thought this column was finished, but I've just come across something really neat. For the first time I can remember, I've seen an article in a mass circulation magazine which not only mentions testers but also captures the true spirit of testing. Check out "Revenge of the Nerds, Automotive Division" in Car and Driver, May 1985. You've probably got a motorhead buddy who has it. Patrick Bedard clearly understands us. See you in Michigan.

73, Randy

DAYTON MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was brought to order at 1400EST by soon to be beached 'Big Fish' Bill Kelsey, N8ET. At 1402 Eastern K8CC, Dave Pruett, entered the tepid waters to assist Bill in oiling the locomotive which was to pull the train prepared to deliver Randy Farmer, W8FN, to serve as the next Big Fish. All the while Ron Harps stood patiently waiting at the station platform knowing what had always been would be thus.

Present was guest Ron Chiappari, N6AUV, who attended to accept in behalf of the Northern California Contest Club N8ET's acknowledgement of defeat in the 1984 Sweepstakes. Ron said a few words over the humbled masses in attendance, accepted Mr. Kelsey's offer to deliver one case of Ohio grape squeezin's for the June NCCC meeting, and was very kind in victory having heard someone utter that "payback is a bitch".continued page 5

DAYTON MEETING continued

Jim Stahl, K8MR, was presented with the Editor's Stomp Ass plaque in recognition of his very significant contribution to the MRRC 1984 SS score and his fine example of sportmanship, enthusiasm, and the continuing leadership which he provides to the Club. On the subject of awards, K8CC vowed to retype the 1983 SS certificates to show the correct year and to sign them this time. N8ET seemed to believe that something would be done about the 1984 awards at the W8UA BBQ; however, Bill was sufficiently noncommittal to allow for continuing speculation.

In an action which may be without precedent The 'Big Fish' was granted constitutional powers to draft and appoint regional Vice Presidents and other Vice Presidents, as he sees fit, to assist him in the general and specific operations of the MRRC. The motion, as introduced by W8LND, caused some to believe that Joe was preparing the way to take over the world through a bid for the Mad River Big Fish Waters but it was not to be.

Mike Socha, W8UA, in a display of great bravery, has volunteered his QTH as the site of the 1985 Michigan meeting for MRRC. The meeting will be held on June 15 with beverages to be furnished by the club; however, some arrangement will be made for the cost of the food. This will provide us with a chance to see Mike's winning station and to meet the Michigan brethren on their home turf.

At 1455 Eastern, amidst steam and smoke, the whistle of the 'Big Fish Special' was heard. It called for acceptance by acclamation the nominations of W8FN, President, and K8NZ, Treasurer. K8NZ, in acceptance, vowed to deposit more funds in Home State Savings in support of our fine Governor, and W8FN made one of the most widely praised acceptance speeches of all times, calling for adjournment of the meeting. minutes created by W8LND

1985 FIELD DAY CHALLENGE

On Friday night before the MRRC Annual meeting the K8MR Christmas Party conversation about Field Day raised its ugly head and was found to be a very popular subject. Many have agreed to take their radios afield and operate in the 1A category as various MRRC groups.

It is the hope of all interested members that the top slots in the 1A competition will be dominated by MRRC entries. In addition, FD provides us with a very interesting interclub competition for which N8CXX has volunteered to identify and prepare appropriate awards. John and his helpers, under supervision of the Big Fish, will grant awards at the 1986 Hamvention. CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

FIELD DAY CONTINUED

As of this time a lot of teams have been formed and represent all MRRC areas of greater activity.

1. KU8E and WD8IXE
2. K8MR and K3LR
3. K8NZ and NBAA
4. W8LND, KN8Z, K8HFQ and AD8I
5. K8ND leading a W8LT Group
6. The veteran Soothing Libation Consumer Corps; W8FN, K886, AD8P and other Findlay volunteers
7. K8CC with a Michigan group

The Wooster guys can probably put a team together and it wouldn't be surprising to see more than one team in Michigan. Please send your team name and members to W8LND. Be sure to submit your summary sheet to ARRL showing the team name as Mad River Radio Club Michigan Carp Team or whatever clever subtitle you choose. Just be sure that MRRC is spelled out in the name.

This is going to be a lot of fun! K8MR suggests the following-

With the flux numbers down to 70, good Field Day propagation can be added to the list of things from the good old days. Gone will be all night openings on 20 and nighttime short skip on 40. Even in 1A 80 will get worked out in time. so I make this proposal: We all show up on 160 cw at 0900Z. If only all the MRRC 1A's show up and work each other for 15 minutes, it should be as profitable as any other band would be at that hour. If we can stir up any other interest, and aren't dodging lightning bolts, it should mean a lot of points, and a good way to keep the ops awake at 5AM local. so get those 260 foot dipoles cut, and see you on top band in Field Day.

We get to work both modes so after CW, slide up above 1825kHz and do it again. Similar within club activity may be available on 10 meters. The potential for ground wave and scatter contacts at 1500Z on Sunday may be worthwhile. The old guys here in Central Ohio will be listening on 28025 at 1500.

Send a copy of your summary sheet to N8CXX to allow John to prepare a report for the Flash and to make some preliminary judgements as to who won! de W8LND

HAMVENTION FLASH

Your Editor prepared a special issue of the Flash for suite stuffing material at the Hamvention. That document contained several pages of data concerning MRRC history prepared by K8MR. If you didn't make it to the Hamvention and want a copy, send an s.a.s.e. bearing 39 cents postage to W8LND.

MRRC Sweepstakes Results
compiled by Dave Pruett KBCC

The May QST said it all - we were vanquished by the NCCC juggernaut in the 1984 SS Club Competition. Perhaps reflecting the CW mode preference of the club, we were neck-and-neck with the W6's after the CW weekend. But condx on phone were terrible - the worst I have ever seen for us poor W8's. As a result, our SSB entries (both in numbers & magnitude) were disappointing, and that's all she wrote!

MRRC SS Plaque winners for 1984 are:

	CW	SSB
hi-power	K3LR	KBAZ
lo-power	KBAZ	N8BTU
multi-op	WB8JBM	WB8JBM

overall combined: KBMR

POINTS PER OPERATOR

KBMR 263,848	K3LR 175,278	WM4T 96,360	WABBIN 57,088
KBCC 243,156	W8LND 168,917	AA8S 91,648	WD8IVL 52,394
KUBE 233,576	K1LT 158,724	N8DET 89,352	KB8LM 49,842
W8FN 233,252	WD8IXE 157,257	W8UA 89,280	K8EM 42,827
K8NZ 224,416	W8RRR 149,756	WB3KKX 75,332	KN8Z 38,125
KBAZ 207,466	N8ET 143,016	N8EKE 75,332	N8AVK 34,860
	N4TY 138,106	NZ4K 73,309	WD8LXX 30,192
	K8BETK 124,226	KA3GZS 73,309	NE8T 30,114
	K3JT 121,812	K8BNS 73,019	KC8JH 20,246
	K8BL 120,300	K8BY 72,360	KS8S 19,764
	N8ATR 120,153	N8BTU 76,602	AD8C 15,900
	W8UPH 113,696	W8PHI 66,912	W8ZD 15,600
	N8CXX 113,368	K8BMK 62,985	N8CSL 12,052
	AD8P 103,914	K8BXK 62,985	W8VMN 11,266
		K8BN 62,985	K8RXQ 4,600
		N8DMM 62,985	K8WC 4,292

CW total: 2,814,998 points - 34 entries involving 39 operators

SSB total: 2,134,423 points - 37 entries involving 43 operators

overall: 4,949,421 points - 71 entries involving 52 operators

You might notice that the totals do not agree with the published QST results. The numbers shown above are based on the published line scores and the official club eligibility list that was sent to the ARRL after SS. I strongly suspect that a few entries put "MRRC" on their summary sheet when the club either had no record of them or else they were ineligible due to attendance or distance.

Plaques will be awarded at the Michigan meeting. Certificates for 200K points and 100K points will be mailed in June (along with the 1983 certificates - ouch!).

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