

the

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edited by

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the official journal of the MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

the world's most entertaining contest club

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from the DEPARTMENT OF PISCINE PHILOSOPHY BY W8FN

Arise ye Mad River faithful! The oafs and barbarians of Other Radio Clubs are even now at our gates, striving mightily to wrest from us the coveted prize of Championship in the CQ Worldwide DX Contest! We must rise up as one and smite them well to preserve our rightful place in the order of things! Even unto the third generation we must gird our loins and set out to do combat with the forces of darkness! Which is just an unnecessarily florid way of saying that if we plan to whup up on folks in WorldWide we'd best be hustling our buns.

The time is at hand to show that we can put on a winning effort, so get those antennas pruned and those amps tuned in time for the SSB installment. Soon, perhaps by the time this Flash is in your hand, you would have been contacted by your friendly Regional VP reminding you of the CQWW push for 1985. I would like to make sure that every operator we can muster has either a single op or multi op slot for both modes. We are going to need every point we can scrounge for this one. Even if you can only put in two or three hours, please submit your score for Mad River! You'll undoubtedly hear much more about this before the log submission deadline.

Even though we are making CQWW the centerpiece of the 1985 contest season that does not mean we don't want to do well in the SweepStakes as well, of course. I hope you all get sufficiently pumped up to go out and put forth a winning effort for SS. Let's keep Mad River at the top of the Club totals! By the time February rolls around we will be rested for the ARRL DX and will have the CQWW in our hip pocket.

Those of you who made the Findlay gathering have undoubtedly spread the word among your less fortunate brethren that it was a smashing success. The Saturday evening cookout at the home of NBET was attended by about 20 of the faithful and a good time was had by all. This gathering featured the 1st Annual Mad River Radio Club Tag Team Sprint Operation and K8MR Keyer Duke-out. Powered by liberal doses of beer, beans and sundry other goodies, this multi-multi-multi sprint effort must have set some sort of record *****CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*****

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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 W8LNO at the address shown on the masthead. Join

the Mad River Net on 3825 Khz at 8:30 Eastern each Monday evening.

PISCINE PHILOSOPHY, CONTINUED

for something, but nobody can quite figure out just what. We managed to float the beer ball in the wee hours, so nobody can accuse us of lack of enthusiasm. Lots of thanks are due to the NBET household for hosting the unruly masses; to Goose, WDBLLD for the beer; and to WM4T for the fine job he did in pulling together the last minute special mailing to get the word out and cover the collective errors of the Big Fish and the Flash Editor in failing to mention the pre-Findlay affair.

The Sunday meeting at Findlay Hamfest saw a near-record turnout of about 40. For once we had a meeting place with plenty of room, a great improvement over the findlay gatherings of the past. Final plans for the CQWW effort were hatched at the meeting, with all present showing commendable enthusiasm. AD8I gave a brief rundown on the capabilities and limitations of Packet Radio for multiplier passing between multiop stations. NBET is looking into this area further and will probably have something to report in the near future. K8MR announced that he will again host the Christmas/New Year party, same arrangements as last year, and urged everyone to plan now to attend. I concur.

NBDET reported on his progress in lining up the hospitality suite at Stouffers for Dayton '86. This problem has since been resolved, and we definitely have a suite and a block of rooms reserved.

Just before the Findlay meeting K8ND thrust a fat envelope into my hand containing some promotional literature and application forms for making the club an ARRL Affiliated Club. This puzzled me somewhat, since I had always assumed we were ARRL affiliated. It turns out that it is necessary for the club president to file a form annually to maintain active status and this hadn't been done since 1979. I mailed the form back to ARRL headquarters and have since received a large packet of information, which when boiled down amounts to a notice that any member who renews through the club generates a \$2 kickback to the club treasury. Until December 31 we also get \$5 for every new member joining through the club. If you are joining or renewing an ARRL membership, please process it through K8NZ who will have the appropriate forms by the time you read this.

Looks like I've used up more space than I should, so I'll just end this rambling mess with the reminder to get on for CQWW. See you there and on 3825 Monday nights.

MRRC DX CONTEST GUIDE

After what seems like years of prodding, W8UA has finally succeeded in getting your editor to put together a contest handbook for the DX tests. The Guide will be tailored after the one prepared by YCCC. We are currently working on various sections of the guide which should be in the mail by October 15. It will be done up so you can put it in a 3 ring binder and include other data for your use and that of the guys at your multi-op station. It is looking like a 20 page document.

FINDLAY MEETING AS SEEN BY N8ET

The second annual N8ET pre-Findlay bash was again held at the QTH of N8ET the night before the Findlay Hamfest. About 20 MRRC types showed up just in time for supper, and Goose showed up just prior to that with a good sized beer ball. Because of the limited amount of publicity about the event it was a bit smaller than last year, but everyone still seemed to enjoy themselves, and the smaller amount of beer lasted 'til the wee small hours even though the temperature was well into the 90's.

The N.A. Sprint was also on that evening--K8MR showed up complete with rig, the famous K3LR/K8MR field day antenna, and a random code generator he said was a keyer. No one else was able to use it, but Jim did something with it and wound up with a log full of Q's. We'll see if he shows up in the results!

I ran a few bits of coax around the end of the house up into the shack and brought the 20 m. KLM and 80 m. loop feedlines out to the deck. Three rigs were set up and about 300 QSO's were made using several different calls. We even managed to work WBLND a few times.

K8CC showed up after the start of the Sprint and was so excited about being able to work /8 from Ohio he walked straight through the screen door to the deck (the screen door was closed at the time). Both he and the door incurred considerable damage, but both were repaired and made it to the end of the evening.

The award for the most difficult QSO goes to KUBE who managed to work a W7 on a very lossy piece of coax which was not connected to the beam at the time. His rate went up considerably after the rig was connected to the beam's feedline in the shack.

For those of you who couldn't make it this year - be sure to be there next year. If the sprint is on the same weekend again, there is talk of the first ever major sprint multi-multi. However, our Honorable NCJ Editor swears it will never again be on that weekend - something about it's too rough on his body..... If you're not into multi-multi sprint efforts, then come just to have a good chance at a winning ticket at pre-hamfest prices. I sold one last year (the winner -- K8NZ) and two this year (no winners).
See you all next year.

73, Bill, N8ET

MEMBER NOTES

The K8CC house construction is coming along nicely. Dave will have his part done in a week or so and will likely be in the place before the end of October. Perhaps he will work SS from the new home. K8NZ extracted the three remaining wisdom teeth of WBLND on September 23 without the benefit of using general anesthetic on Joe. LND is doing just fine; Doc reports that the Plastic Surgeon was able to re-attach the two fingers which Joe bit off. Occupational hazard!

CQ WORLDWIDE DX CONTEST

The rules for this affair have been published in the September '85 issue of CQ magazine. Changes this year include territorial restrictions on club entries, with the continued allowance of prorata inclusion of members portions of DXpedition scores. MRRC will be allowed to pick up the N8ET piece of the VP9AD score.

Also, the club president is required to notify CQ of which scores are to be included in the club total. This requires that you, each of you, send a copy of your summary sheet to W8FN so that Randy can accumulate the club score and list the calls of members who are to be included there in. It is essential that you comply with this item or our club score will go begging.

Well gang, MRRC finished 1984 CQWW only 60 million points behind winning Frankford Radio Club. They and YCCC are light years ahead of the third place Southern California contest Club. We finished seventh, even beaten by the Dixie DXer's. Wow! Your Editor predicts a third place finish, about 40,000,000 points, and a lot of heartburn!

A very lofty objective for your typical single op with a tri-bander, some kind of a decent antenna for 40 and a good 80 meter antenna will be 1,500,000 points for cw and fone combined. It will take a lot of those entries to allow us to obtain even the pesimistic W8LNO goal.

Mad River Radio Company

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1984 CW CQWW RESULTS

Individual station performances from the MRRC gang were, for the entries made, spectacular.

W8YVR : Pat finished second in the USA in the single op category and was #1 in zone 4. He whuped the entire east coast, save N2LT

N4AR : Bill and friends did a 4th place finish in M/S and were followed at sixth by---

W8UA : Quite a showing by our club in the Top Score Box!

Additionally, K3LR finished high in the all band single op category as did K8NZ. N8ET put in a good effort with his 14 Mhz single band entry.

**ANNOUNCING---
DX CONTEST EDITOR**

You can tell from the scanty comments and the late reporting that your FLASH Editor is in need of a lot of help when it comes to getting the job done for contest results. Enter John Thernes, WM4T. John has agreed to accumulate scores, report the participants and comment on the fun we all will have in the CQWW and ARRL DX Tests this season. Please get your scores and comments to John and enjoy the results of his efforts.

**ANNOUNCING---
SWEEPSTAKES EDITOR**

Jeff Clarke, K8BE, has taken on the task of accumulating and reporting on the efforts of our membership in the ARRL SweepStakes. Be sure to send Jeff a copy of your Summary Sheet and comments on the contest. Jeff's mailing address is 7081 Hollywood Dr., West Chester, Ohio 45069.

INPUT WANTED

This newsletter needs articles. W8YVR has suggested that we put a few writeups in the Flash about member stations. K8BS has appeared in the NCJ, W8UA needs to be in the Flash along with other stations, large and small. Each of you must find some feature of another MRRC member station to be unique. PLEASE, write it up and send it to W8LND. A reasonably complete outline will be sufficient -- just give the DM enough clues to allow him to flesh out your work product.

Articles on Antennas are always welcomed by the multitude. K8MR is a consistent contributor with his description of his travels and the colorful history of MRRC. Others among us take interesting trips but don't always share the experience. Please do.

KBMR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The time draws near! KBMR, the Mr. Jim Stahl, has announced that the annual event will be held at his 3592 Atherstone QTH in Cleveland Hts. on December 28. A map and further particulars will appear in the next Flash.

ARRL DX TEST RESULTS

If our members put together multi-op combo's and scores for the cqWW like they did for the ARRL test in 1985 we will make a FB showing. Congratulations go to a lot of folks for their personal and collective achievements in the ARRL event.

K8CC - top dog in Michigan for the CW weekend!

W8LND - top in the 8th area and Ohio for the Code weekend and third in Ohio on 20 Meter SSB

KU8E - navigated KS8S to the top USA score on 20 Meter SSB!!!! A very fine showing Mr. Clarke!!! Obviously a very fine station Mr. Scarborough!!!!

N8ET - number three in the USA for 20 m single band on SSB. MRRC had 20 SSB covered like a blanket. Bill worked 106 countries which was right up there with the big East Coast unlimited multi's!

KH6DW - KBMR with an assist from K7SS topped Oceania on code and finished fourth in the world in the m/s category. Quite a trick from KH6.

N4AR - chalked up one more top ten finish on CW. Congratulations, Bill!

K3LR - racked up over one million points on code and came very close to finishing in the top ten. It is tough for old married guys to put in full time!

W8BIXE - Steve stacked up the mults and came in with a fine finish on CW.

There was some fierce multi/single competition during the SSB weekend with K3LR, W8BJBM and K3TUP slugging it out. The photo finish added a new dimension to MRRC competition. Keep it up, Guys!

On CW, KS8S put on a FB multi/double exhibition while the KBNZ team and the W8LT diehards endured the poor conditions in the M/S slot. All of the multi op efforts really went to bolster the MRRC club total and allowed us to beat the North Texas Contest Club. Congratulations to all who sent in logs and added to our total!