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We have now reached the seventh inning stretch in the 1985-86 contest season, and I hope this finds everybody pleased with their efforts to date and rarin' to go again after the Holiday break. At this writing the ARRL 10 meter contest is three days away. Based on the conditions we had for CQWW CW I wouldn't place any large wagers on the band being open to anywhere, but perhaps I will have been proven wrong by the time this issue of the FLASH is in your hands.

I think we should have a pretty good club score for the Worldwide. Unfortunately I have not received many scores for either mode. It is very important that you send me your score as I must send the CQ people a list of stations and scores for the club competition. I haven't heard anything out of some of you who were most insistent at the WBUA meeting in June that we campaign CQWW this year. PLEASE send me your score immediately - I don't need a band-by-band breakdown or anything elaborate, just a simple score will do. We are going to do well in the competition if everyone who participated gets on the list.

I heard many Mad River calls in SweepStakes, so we should also do well there if all fo you submit logs. We are again competing in the Medium class, by the way - no full court press this year, but we nevertheless should make sure Mad River is up there near the top in the club listings.

I also heard a number of Mad River guys in the just-completed ARRL 160 contest. Those of you who passed that one up missed a good contest. DX conditions were ca-ca the first night, but this was offset by the good participation which made for tremendous rates. Lots of folks had 80 rates on Friday night. Saturday night the DX conditions were a good deal better, with a very nice peak at European sunrise. With 10 meters in the toilet for at least the next two years the ARRL 160 test will probably be the only way to get your December fix of contest action. ---continued on page 2---

JEFF CLARKE, KUBE

SWEEPSTAKES RESULTS--CW AND SIDEBAND

JIM STAHL, KBMR

FRUSTRATION IN HAWAII -- WORLDWIDE CW

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, MRRC FOLK!!

PISCINE PHILOSOPHY continued

The subject of 160 meters brings me inevitably to the next topic. It appears that the 3825 KHz Monday night net is not working well in this time of declining sunspots. Those few of us who have tried to meet on 3825 the last few weeks have usually been rewarded with 59+50 db Pig Farmers or Spanish speakers in place of the Mad River faithful. On several occasions we have gone to 160 meters with good results. I would like to recommend that we set an official alternate frequency for the Monday night meeting. If you show up on 75 meters and don't hear us, look on the 160 frequency. We have usually been winding up around 1872 KHz so that seems as good a frequency as any. If you think some other frequency would be better, dump it in. As long as we let everybody know what it is, the exact frequency is not important. I would suggest that we avoid frequencies divisible by five since those slots are usually occupied.

December 28 marks the gala annual KBMR christmas Party and Mad River Radio Club Meeting--details elsewhere in this issue. I hope I will be able to join the gang again this year. This is a meeting not to be missed. Apropos of the good times which are sure to go down, I will leave you for this issue with a bit of philosophy, plagiarized from the creed of a major defense contractor (which shall remain nameless):

THE CONTESTER'S CREED

I will not drink.

If I do, I will not get drunk.

If I do, it will not be in public.

If it is, I will not pass out.

If I do, I will fall face down so my call sign badge won't show.

Happy Holidays to all and hope to see you in Cleveland Heights.

73,

Randy

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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.

KBMR/KH6 DXpedition REPORT

My recent trip to KH6 for the CQ WW CW was intended as a low-key radio trip. Linda and I picked out where we wanted to go (Maui) and then I began looking for a place to operate. I was not interested in carrying a complete station, so I only took the keyer, phones, log sheets, and other small things I thought of.

Frank Kephart, KH6DW, whose station I had operated last February, offered his help in finding a place to operate, including trying to get me in with the M/S group at his QTH. Unfortunately the K4TEA/K4TKM brothers wanted to keep it a family affair. AH6AZ was going single op from his place with the club call KH6RS. KH6MD was being operated on 20 meters by Hill, N6HR. This became my one chance. Hill was serious about his single band effort, but had no objections to me using the station at night after 20 had died.

This involved finding a suitable antenna in the mess of wires laying at the base of the tower, and getting it up the 70 foot crankup. It didn't take long to untangle a 40 meter dipole, so I decided to try 40 meters only when my turn came. Unfortunately when I returned at 9pm Friday, Hill had already packed it in for the night and left, Randy (MD) was not around, and I wasn't about to start fooling around rebuilding a strange station whose owner I hadn't even met. So I went home to try again Saturday.

Saturday I timed it just right. Hill gave me a quick lesson in tower cranking and left. I got the antenna up, found a cable to connect my keyer to Hill's IC-730, and fired up.

The antenna showed a SWR of well over 3:1, and a few calls proved that I wasn't getting out. In the next hour I scraped out seven QSOs (four West Coast, a KL7 and two JAs). Nobody got my call right the first time. I did some listening to convince myself that I wasn't missing much. N4WW was the only zone 5 and N5AU and W5WMU the only zone 4s I heard. I packed it in! I never did learn what the antenna problem was, but I suspect a bum balun.

For all my expedition planning experience, I did neglect to take one thing. I thought of it a couple of times at home, but never at a good time to do anything about it. I didn't take the famous MRRC Mascot photo, the one that has been in a dozen or so contests from Europe to Hawaii to the Caribbean. I screwed up, and paid for it.

THE JEFFIE. DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES REPORT By Jeff Clarke KU8E

The 1985 MRRRC Sweepstakes effort was small compared to what we have done the last few years. This year we had only 16 entries on CW and 10 on SSB. I guess everyone was still recovering from CQWW DX Phone ?? We had a number of FB scores that are worth mentioning.

On CW weekend WD8IXE with 134K outdistanced the nearest competitor (WM4T with 111K) by 23K points to take home the club CW title. FB job Steve. On A power there was a log jam with KU8E, KQ8M, KV8Q, KR8Y, and K8NZ all within 100 Q's of each other. KU8E came out on top of the pile with 107K. K8MR went on the road again this year operating from N8CSL and then operating from home as K8MR to rack up 125K for the club. W8LT was the sole CW Multi-Op at 100K.

Phone weekend brought some FB short skip conditions on the high bands. I heard a few Midwest stations talking after the contest and some were saying it was so good on 20 Meters that they didn't get down to the low bands until well after Midnight! NZ4K was the club single-op champ on SSB piloting W8LT to 151K points. N8CXX and W8FN were next at 140K and 118K respectively. Congrats to the WB8JBM crew for their 1730 Q / 256K Multi-Op score which looks like to be tops for the USA Multi-Ops. Way to go guys!

My thanks go to WM4T, W8FN, K8MR, and K8NZ for their help in collecting the scores which made this report possible.

HIGH CLAIMED SCORES **CW

WD8IXE	910/74	134,680
WM4T	763/73	111,398
KU8E	727/74	107,596 *
KQ8M	704/73	102,784 *
KV8Q	690/72	100,080 *
KR8Y	631/72	90,864 *
K8NZ	634/69	87,492 *
W8UPH	592/72	85,248
K3LR	600/71	85,200
W8FN	500/72	72,000
K8MR	450/70	63,000
N8CSL	477/66	62,964
(K8MR)		
AD8P	442/70	61,880
AA8S	342/69	47,196
W8LNO	250/63	31,500

MULTI-OP CW

W8LT 690/73 100,740

SSB

W8LT	1025/74	151,700
(NZ4K)		
N8CXX	965/73	140,890
W8FN	801/74	118,548
NE8T	418/71	59,356
K8MR	400/74	59,200
K8NZ	257/53	27,242 *
KU8E	211/56	23,632 *
K8CC	206/49	20,188
WD8IXE	74/74	10,952

MULTI-OP SSB

WB8JBM 1730/74 256,040

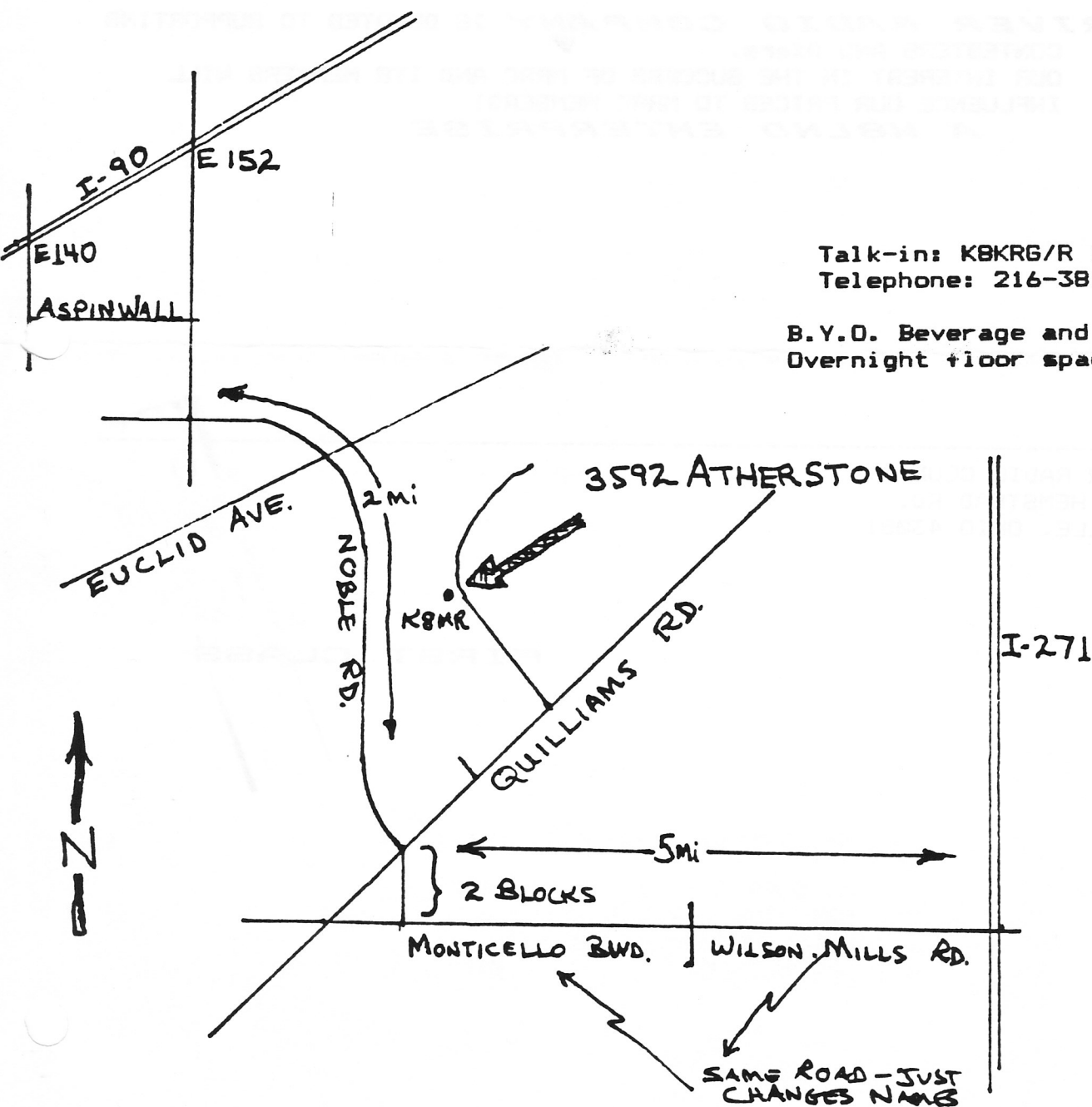
** Recieved as of 12/4/85

* A POWER

NINTH ANNUAL KBMR XMAS PARTY

YES, once again Linda has argeed to the foolishness! December 28 from seven till they throw us out. Come see Tim sleep on the landing. See the thin man cause one case or Rolling Rock long necks to disappear. See Randy get on the outside of a cold one. See the aging radio freaks from Columbus. We're gonna have some fun!

Exit 152 was closed last year. It is now open. Drive carefully.



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