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the official journal of the MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

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from the **DEPARTMENT OF PISCINE PHILOSOPHY** BY WBFN

Welcome to 1986! I hope evreyone survived the usual holiday over-eating and TV watching binge to return his nose to the old grindstone. For your erstwhile Fish the trauma of returning to work after a two week vacation was exceeded only by the trauma of the 'leventeen hours of grunt house cleaning and maintenace that took place during the "vacation". If I worked that hard at my eight to five I'd own the whole Air Force and we'd have the Commies on the run!

I'm sorry I missed the KBNR gathering this year. Unforseen family obligations put me 600 miles away from Cleveland and out of reach of even a consolation beer while the merriment proceeded. I've heard a few sketchy reports, all indication that the meeting was a huge sucess. Next year I'll be there for sure!

The hiatus in the 1985-86 contest season is almost over. CQ 160 is coming up, followed by the Sprints and then ARRL DX. Are we all ready? Let's see if we can produce a really good club score for the ARRL Tests this year. Even a few casual hours on 20 meters can produce a few thousand points for the club aggregate score, so by all means operate and send your log, even if you can't go full bore. Don't forget that this year will be a golden opportunity to add to your country total on the low bands. In the ARRL Tests you won't have to fight the other DX stations for contacts; they'll all be after you. While we are on the subject of club scores, I would like to emphasize that I still need scores for the CQWW tests. This is the final call as I must soon send the summary list to qualify our club entry. If you haven't reported yet, polease do so at once.

That's about it for this issue. A stalwart few of us still show up on the Monday night 3825 schedule, usually retreating to 1872+/- after 10 minutes or so when it is clear we can't hear each other on 75 meters. Y'all come join us when you can. See you in the upcoming contests.

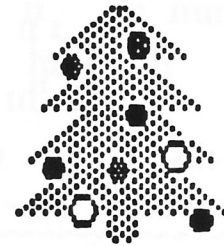
CONTRIBUTORS

JOHN TERNES, WM4T

CQWW RESULTS--CW AND SIDEBAND

DAVE PRUETT, KBCC TIPS FOR LITTLE GUNS AND MEMBER ADDRESS LIST

**CQWW**



CW / PHONE RUMORS

BY

JOHN THERNES, WM4T

Here we are folks, in the throngs of the Christmas Holiday Season. It is this time of year that we strive to make people happy and resolve to better our lives in the coming year. In retrospect, it comes to mind that we have ALREADY made a few people happy now that CQWW is behind us: The Power Company is celebrating a few more KWH's up for billing to all of us who ran those nice amplifiers for an entire weekend; our families are happier in that the ole' man will be seen in family circles a bit more often; Santa will have a few more assistants available as he strives to make the rounds delivering all those goodies. And lest we forget those poor feathered creatures who will now be able to perch themselves on all that aluminum as they stop to rest on their traditional journey South.

Now that we have taken care of the non-hams in our lives, what about the hams...particularly contesters. Fear not, as I am about to give you a preliminary peek at some scores that I have been able to glean from various sources. I did not receive as many scores as I would have liked. For the life of me, I can't understand why someone would sit at a radio all weekend and not turn in their scores to their club for preliminary publication. Could it be that people are afraid of giving their scores prior to publication in fear of someone 'rubber logging' their score by that one additional multiplier, or that extra ten or so Q's buried deep within the log? I don't think us Mad River types are up to this. If you wish to have your efforts known to the club, please remember the efforts of those who must scrounge for score rumors. As a suggestion, perhaps a post card, included within a Flash published prior to the contest season, would make it painless for score submission. Spaces could be provided for the name of the contest, class, score, operators, mode, etc. If this post card also had a stamp on it and was pre-addressed, it may solve this dilemma. This could be some food for thought at the next official gathering of the membership (Dayton). Nevertheless, I think you will get a fair indication of how our Mad River flock did.

As to conditions, it appears that the Phone weekend was much better. CW was ok, but it appears that Phone had the advantage of the ether gods. Also, could it be that Halley's comet provided some sort of F layer electromagnetic shield on which we bounced our rf to the world? If so, this was indeed a fine Christmas present not to be used again in our lifetimes!!

AND NOW, THE ENVELOPE PLEASE....

PHONE

CALL		160	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
	QSO's	113	280	217	1329	946	142	3027
AD8P	ZONES	20	25	29	33	28	16	151
AD8P	COUNTRIES	47	81	82	126	118	47	501
KU8E								
KS8S								
W8FN								
WD8IXE								
NZ4K								
K3JT								
AD8C								
KD8NS								

MULTI-MULTI

SCORE: 5,671,096

CALL		160	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
	QSO's	16	121	63	583	613	33	1429
N8CXX	ZONES	5	20	21	31	26	12	115
N8CXX	COUNTRIES	8	67	49	87	86	26	323
N8ET								
N8BTU								
N8DET								

MULTI-SINGLE

SCORE; 1,721,340

CALL		160	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
	QSO's	14	56	49	148	147	10	424
KA8POW	ZONES	6	13	18	21	20	6	84
KA8POW	COUNTRIES	9	30	36	47	59	10	191
K8AQM								
NI8L								
WD9INF								

MULTI-SINGLE

SCORE: 312,125

CALL		160	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
	QSO's	10	55	40	347	373	39	864
K8MR	ZONES	4	13	17	26	26	9	93
	COUNTRIES	5	31	30	82	87	22	257

SINGLE OPERATOR

SCORE: 857,150

CONTINUED

CQWW SCORE RUMORS...CONTINUED

PHONE

<u>CALL</u>		<u>160</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	QSO's				169	110	6	285
<u>W8UPH</u>	ZONES				18	18	4	40
	COUNTRIES				51	51	6	108

SINGLE OPERATOR (THREE-BANDS ONLY) SCORE: 117,956

ALL BAND SCORE__NO BREAKDOWN: W8UA...QSO's 2013
 ZONES 142
 COUNTRIES 450
 MULTI-SINGLE SCORE: 3.3 Million

SINGLE-BAND: 40 METERS WB8JBM (KC8MK-operator)

QSO's 158
 ZONES 28
 COUNTRIES 73

SCORE: 46K

SINGLE-BAND: 20 METERS NA8V

QSO's 1500
 ZONES 34
 COUNTRIES 124

NO SCORE REPORTED

SINGLE-BAND 80 METERS N8ATR

QSO's 275
 ZONES 25
 COUNTRIES 75

SCORE: 66K

K8NZ SINGLE OP ALL BANDS (NO BREAKDOWN) SCORE: 57.5K

CW

<u>CALL</u>		<u>160</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	QSO's	139	285	374	1190	447	27	2462
KS8S	ZONES	17	23	35	37	26	9	147
KS8S	COUNTRIES	45	74	95	109	92	11	426

W8FN

AD8P

KU8E

WN4T

N8ABL

K8NZ

WA8SAE

MULTI-MULTI

SCORE: 3,958,284

CONTINUED

CQWW SCORE RUMORS...CONTINUED

CW

CALL		160	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
	QSO's	21	110	309	671	185	6	1302
WD8IXE	ZONES	9	22	30	30	25	5	121
WD8IXE	COUNTRIES	13	56	69	82	64	6	289
NZ4K								

MULTI-SINGLE

NO SCORE REPORTED

CALL		160	80	40	20	15	10	TOTAL
	QSO's	43	80	85	420	45	4	675
W8LNO	ZONES	9	19	22	24	17	3	94
	COUNTRIES	18	41	41	57	35	3	195

SINGLE-OPERATOR

SCORE: 548,000

Scores look pretty good, don't they? The big multi-multi stations as well as the single-op efforts all contributed to another fine showing for Mad River. It will be some time before those world records of bygone days are surpassed, but we only have about six or seven years to wait for those solar flux numbers to rise! Until then, think of all the practice we can get in!!

I hope you have enjoyed this peek at some preliminary scores and I hope to see you on the bands a bit more often now that it appears my antenna problems may FINALLY be coming to a conclusion. See you all at Dayton if not sooner.

73,

John Thernes

John Thernes, WM4T

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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 W8LNO at the address shown on the masthead. Join the Mad River Net on 3825 Khz at 8:30 Eastern each Monday evening.

CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

The KBMR ninth annual Christmas Party and were a great success. Twenty five or so of the faithful showed up to share in the fellowship and BS and owe Jim and Linda a big thank you for their hospitality and Linda's patience with Jim's motley friends. Thanks, Stahls!

By way of new business, a lot of discussion centered around the Club's nonrecognition program. It was agreed that an ongoing awards program was called for and that the upcoming ARRL DX Tests were a great place to start. Several members stepped forward and volunteered to sponsor plaques for the upcoming awards.

Top "little gun" -- code	sponsor, KBCC
Top "little gun" -- phone	sponsor, KBCC
Special Recognition	sponsors, W8KIC and K8AZ
Top Single Op -- code	sponsor, W8LNO
Top Single Op -- phone	sponsor, W8LNO

MORE SPONSORS ARE NEEDED! There are other categories such as multi op and single band where an award is needed. The purpose of the awards program is to stimulate activity, so please be creative and come up with a point producing plaque for the club.

There are a few strings attached to some of these awards. The KBCC awards specify that the winner cannot use a 40 meter rotary (this condition added to exclude W8LNO from competition) but a twenty-up tribander is ok and you can run as much power as you want. Single op only of course and you must comply with the contest rules including non-use of spotting nets.

The W8KIC/K8AZ award will be awarded at the discretion of the donors. The idea was brought forward very late in the Dewar's -- correction-- meeting, and it is unclear as to the name of the award or how it will be assigned. However, there will be a plaque awarded in a manner similar to the "Editor's Stomp Ass" award of the 1984 SweepStakes and it will have some meritorious purpose.

Now, lets all remember, the object of this competition business is to beat some other club and to kick the other guy's butt. Make a few challenges to other club members. Get yourself keyed up. If we all work at it and get a few wimpy multi single operations on we may just beat TDXS or North Texas Contest Club in the medium club category.

Further discussions involved the assignment of quotas, a very worthwhile suggestion advanced by Val, W8KIC. Dr. Edwards observed that if you have a number to hit, realistically established, you will do the job. Area Vice Presidents are encouraged to establish overall quota's for members in your area and to get out the points. Central Ohio quotas appear elsewhere in this 'FLASH'.

Doing a DX Contest as a "Little Gun"
by Dave Pruett K8CC

Many "little gun" stations and operators avoid making a serious effort in the DX Contests. They may "fool around" and make a few hundred QSOs to do their bit for the club. However, these "fool around" efforts don't really cause the contesteer to learn or improve. What the little gun needs to do is make a serious effort using all the resources at his command.

Now we must be realistic about this, because a tribander and wires in WB is not the stuff a top ten finish is made of. With this in mind, what the little gun needs is a goal. In a way, he is in a very flexible position, because he can make the contest what he wants it to be. The K3LRs and N4ARs of this world are doomed to strive for spots in the top ten - the little gun's goal can be whatever he wants to shoot for with his available arsenal.

As an example, in the 1985 ARRL CW DX Contest I operated from the "real" K8CC QTH, with a 50' high tribander, 40' high 80/40 dipoles and no antenna on 160. I began quite casually, not getting on until 0043Z Friday nite and sleeping thru the first two hours of Europe Saturday morning. Saturday evening I took off two hours to run a pizza and watch some prime-time TV. I got six hours of sleep Saturday night and went to church Sunday morning rather than run Europe (some things are more important than a "casual" effort).

What did I accomplish and what did I learn from this casual effort? I wound up with 556 QSOs and 204 multipliers for 340K points in 22 hours of operating time. I worked a few new countries and learned some new things about DX propagation. I discovered that even a tribander can sometimes run stations from WB on 20M. And I realized that in the afternoon low-sunspot doldrums when the only things to work are KP4s and PYs the size of your antenna doesn't really matter at all.

From this, I realized the essential secret of doing a DX contest single op: "There is so much to do, DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF". This may seem a simplistic statement, but it isn't really. In a multi-op effort (particularly in CQWW) you have to be everywhere at once including the marginal openings. As a single op, all you have to do is identify the best thing that your station could be doing at any given moment, AND GO DO IT!

Let's talk about planning for a serious little gun effort and you will begin to see what I mean. For starters, what about hardware? I'm not going to give a treatise on station design here, for the spirit of the little gun is to use what he has. A tribander and low band wires is perfectly adequate. A KW is a necessity, but even an SB200 will do just fine. If you have a amplifier with 160, it will be worth the time to put up some sort of wire for that band for extra multipliers. The usual contest aids (filters, preamps, etc.) and good station ergonomics are still important, but don't be afraid to jump in with less than optimum hardware.

Little Gun (cont.)

The most important thing for a W8 DX contester to remember is to NEVER MISS A CHANCE TO RUN EUROPE. This means 20 and 15 in the mornings, 20 in late afternoon and (during the CW contests) 40 in the late afternoon and early evenings. Also, don't miss European sunrise around 06Z when it is possible to "search and pounce" Europeans at a good rate on 40, 80, and sometimes 160 (if you're a big enough gun).

Along these lines, the cardinal rule for little guns is to ACT LIKE A BIG GUN WHENEVER POSSIBLE. Try to recognize when conditions are good enough for the little gun to run Europe, and take advantage of it! But if the big guns are CQing and you can't, don't give up but keep up the S&P.

Similarly, the single op should recognize the best times to catch some sleep, unless he is the rare individual who can stay awake AND ALERT for 48 hours. The best time to sleep is the middle of the night - try to stay up thru Europe sunrise (07Z) and get up well before local sunrise to catch the Pacific and Asia multipliers on the low bands. Another good time to sleep is the middle of the afternoon (unless Europe stays open!), but even then the single op can make a diet of working KP4s, LUs and PYs on 20, 15 and sometimes 10. But never, I repeat, NEVER, sleep thru the morning opening to Europe.

By now, the modus operandi for the little gun is starting to emerge. Run Europe when you can, S&P the rest of the time. If you think about it, this is essentially the same strategy that the big guns must accept during low sunspots. This becomes very clear when everyone is in the Central and South American pileups in the afternoon - we're all doing the same things at the same times and it's very satisfying to sneak past a big gun to a new multiplier!

Two more things - the little gun spends less time running so he generates fewer QSOs. Hence, his score depends very heavily on multipliers. An up-to-date all band multiplier checksheet is an absolute must both as an operating aid and as a psychological boost. After the first twelve hours or so, you have a pretty good idea who the serious DX stations are. Working these mults on all the open bands provides a challenge and a reminder which helps the score. Working the odd-ball multiplier is fun, but the big multiplier totals are built upon not missing anything easy on all bands.

Lastly, set a goal for yourself. What might be a reasonable goal? With decent operating skills, reasonable conditions, appropriate hardware and maybe 30 hours out of 48, 400-500K is obtainable on either mode in ARRL or CQWW. With your goal in mind, if you need a break in the middle of the contest, go do it. DX contests are not as cut-and-dried as SS so you can take an occasional break and not hurt your score too badly. But decide to make a serious effort, so that you'll come back to the radio after the rest and not just blow it off.

I have often said in the past that you had to be crazy to do a DX contest single-op all band. Now I realize that you don't have to be crazy, but just make the right moves.

FLASH REPORT -- ARRL DX TEST

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING REPORT AND MAIL IT TO --JOHN THERNES,
WM4T, 60 LOCUST AVENUE, COVINGTON, KY 41017.

CALL USED _____

BAND _____ Q'S _____ MULTS _____ SCORE _____

160

80

40

20

15

10 _____

TOTALS

CLASS OF OPERATION

OPERATORS

STATION DESCRIPTION

COMMENTS

ELIGIBLE FOR LITTLE GUN TROPHY?

(do not write above this line)



ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST

CW Third FULL weekend in February – Phone First FULL weekend in March



CALL USED _____ CW ☐
PHONE ☐ ARRL SECTION (P. 8 QST) _____

Separate logs and summaries must be submitted for each mode of operation.

Single operator

- ☐ All band
☐ Single band(circle one)
160-80-40-20-15-10
☐ QRP (10w or less)

Multioperator

- ☐ Single transmitter
☐ Two transmitter
☐ Unlimited
Multiops list ALL operators:

	Valid QSOs	Countries
160		
80		
40		
20		
15		
10		
Total		

_____ x 3 = _____ x _____ Countries =
(Valid QSOs) (QSO Points)

_____ Claimed Score.

DC POWER INPUT – CHECK ANY USED: ☐ 10 watts or less ☐ 11-200 ☐ Over 200

YES ☒ AFFILIATED CLUB PARTICIPATION

NO ☐

ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB NAME MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

(Note: Club secretary must submit list of eligibles in order for club aggregate to be listed. 3 or more entries must be submitted.)

"I have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations established for amateur radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee."

Date _____ Signature _____ Call _____

Print or type:

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

1. Check log for duplicate QSOs.
2. Copy ALL QSO info carefully. A penalty is assessed for incorrectly copied QSO info.
3. Observe mailing deadline
4. Dupe/check sheet must accompany all entries of 500 or more QSOs

**CALLSIGN:**

☐ **CW**

☐ **PHONE**

ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST

1. Separate summary sheets and logs required for each mode.
2. Check entry for duplicates on each band.
3. Dupe/check sheets must be included with every entry of 500 or more QSOs.

W/VE: Three points per DX QSO.

DX: Three points per W/VE QSO.

CD-55(R1179)
Printed in U.S.A.

[illegible]

CALL _____ ☐ CW ☐ PHONE ARRL SECTION _____ BAND _____

LU						UA4						VS					
LZ												VU					
						6						XE					
OA												Y-					
OE						9											
OH						Ø						YB					
												YN					
												YO					
OK1						UB5						YS					
												YU1					
2						UC2						2					
3						UD6											
						UF6											
ON						UG6						3					
						UH8											
						UI8						4					
OX						UJ8						7					
OY						UK1											
OZ						2						YV					
PA						3						ZB2					
												ZD					
						4						ZE					
PJ						5						ZF					
PY												ZK					
												ZL					
PZ						6											
S-												ZP					
SM						7						ZS					
						8											
						9											
						Ø						3-					
												4-					
SP						UL7						5-					
						UM8						6-					
SV						UO5											
T-						UP2						7-					
TF																	
						UQ2						8-					
						UR2											
UA1						UT/UY5						9-					
						UV/UW											
2						VK											
3																	
						VP											

DIRECTIONS:

Use this form (or your own) to avoid duplicates. **Circle** calls of each new country as worked. This record **must** accompany your entry. Additional sheets are available from ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111, U.S.A.

ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX COMPETITION CHECKSHEET

[illegible]

CALL _____ BAND _____ NR. COUNTRIES _____ NR. CONTACTS _____

CENTRAL OHIO QUOTAS - ARRL DX TEST

These quotas are for combined code and phone scores. They consider what members have done in the past, their station, and their outside commitments.

N8AVK 100K, K8HFD 400K, KN8Z 200K, W8LT 1,200K, K8ND 5K, AD8I 200K, KV8Q 400K, W8LND 800K---TOTAL 3,305,000. Except for the W8LT item, these quotas are member ascribed. K8ND, for example, can get his five thousand points as a part of a multi op situation, from home, or as a guest op.

MEMBER NOTES

It has been reported that W8FN has succeeded K8CC as the Great Lakes division Contest Advisory Committee representative. That puts the Flash Masthead in error, but so be it! CONGRATULATIONS, RANDY!!

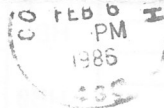
K8MR, venerable tester, reports 3 q's and 1 mult in the VHF SS. In another show of power Jim worked 57 in the ARRL Midnight Special. I still don't understand how a man can work the midnight shift and the Midnight Special simultaneously. de W8LND

SCORE REPORTS

PLEASE! Be sure to send your ARRL DX Test scores and data to WM4T. John will again be summarizing and reporting upon the results of our efforts.

MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

28 SOUTH HEMSTEAD ROAD
WESTERVILLE, OHIO 43081



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL