



edited by  
Joe Warden, WBLNO

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**the official journal of the MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB**

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**BIG FISH**

The K8MR Christmas Party was its usual smashing success. The Central Ohio contingent showed up at near full power (eight, I think), AD8P made his first appearance in the memory of many and there was good attendance from Western PA and Michigan. Thanks to all for taking the time from your holiday schedule to make the trip. An estimate of 30 in attendance would not be in great error.

K3LR came bearing slides of N2AA and N4AR and perhaps some that didn't make my list. W8BIXE distributed some very colorful J6DX QSL cards. The business meeting held its usual interest. Be sure to check the Dayton info further down the page. On a bright note, K8MR reported that the K3LR/K8MR field day team would not be in action this year due to the K8MR move in June. Jim allowed that some other group would have a chance to win the MRRRC plaque for the 1-Alpha competition.

KUBE has agreed to accept responsibility for collecting scores and for reporting WW participation as is now required by the CQWW committee. The duties of the club Treasurer have been officially expanded to include assuring that roster data is reported to ARRL for club competition purposes and that CQ will be notified of participants and their scores for the CQ events in which the Club participates. W83KKX reported that K3TUP would like to host a summertime eyeball session. John, please select a date and we will make a general announcement.

**Dayton rooms** were the topic of considerable conversation. N8DET has arranged for a suite and 20 sleeping rooms at the Dayton Stoffer Inn. To obtain a room you must send Chris a check for one night's rent. There isn't any discussion to be made-- That's the rule. The damage is \$84 for a double and \$72 for a single. Chris must receive your check before January 15. CHRIS KINZEL, N8DET, 260 WOODLAKE DRIVE, BRIGHTON, MI 48116. First come, first reserved. The limit is 20 so your check may be returned. Don't holler at Chris or me. We don't run the hotel.

WE NEED SOMEONE TO BE IN CHARGE OF OPERATING THE SUITE. Chris handled it single handed last year. The Fish did it for two years and can tell you that it isn't a big job if you get some help and it is fun. Call LNO today.

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CONTRIBUTORS  
DON DASO, W8BMAZ  
JEFF CLARKE, KUBE  
OPERATING THE 10 METER TEST FROM N4ZC  
CQWW DX CONTEST SCORES AND OTHER STUFF  
BILL KELSEY, N8ET  
STATUS REPORT ON PACKET PROJECT  
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**10 METER TEST FROM N4ZC** by WABMAZ

Since a fourth place finish in the 1985 10 meter contest at N4ZC, I'd been eager for another chance at this contest. Late in the summer we had put another 30 feet of Rohn 25 atop the 10 meter tower, and replaced the hardware on the W2PV-design 6-element Yagi at N4ZC. Hardline was available but we couldn't get that installed before I moved back to Ohio.

Another reason for my eagerness was that move---while it's nice to have a job and a regular paycheck, I was missing the contest season. Luckily, this contest falls during Ohio University's extended winter break.

I made an early departure for North Carolina, hoping that we could get the hardline up before the contest, and 6 1/2 hours later, Roger and I were shaking hands and slipping into what his wife calls our "radio mode" of conversation--talking non-stop hamming, DX, and contests. Rain and cold weather (high in the 30's) discouraged me from climbing. Saturday dawned with similar weather. So we spent the day in preparation, and catching up on the 6 months of activities I'd missed. The contest opened in fine fashion. The first hour, in both modes, yielded 116 QSOs. The second hour was 64. I thought we were off to a great start, and we were. But those rates weren't to be equalled again during the contest, although Saturday's "California run" netted a 100 hour. But the multipliers of last year just weren't there, and it became apparent that I'd probably never equal last year's score. The rate sheet showed I was slowly falling behind. The final tally was 840 with only 60 multipliers.

\*\*\*\*\*Some tips for this contest, regardless of propagation.

Turn, turn, turn! Thinking the band is dead is not a good idea. Keep calling CQ and Rotate, rotate. Side and back scatter are very important at this point in the cycle. Those fluttery W1s and W2s help your rate while you are attempting to work W5 and W0. Roger, N4ZC, and I disagree on the correct CW speed for scatter contacts. He thinks slower is better, but I prefer high speeds, with repeats if needed. On average, there are enough good ops who can succeed with faster speeds, making it worthwhile. Send only relevant information, please; we all know our own calls!

Listen on both modes at once, if possible. Any transceiver with dual VFOs will allow you to tune the mode you are not working with the second VFO in search of new mults or contacts. It gets confusing the first time out, but you get used to it. Absent that second VFO it is still possible to spin the dial occasionally and listen on the mode not in use. Of course, you don't have to work both modes in the ARRL 10 meter contest, but I think it is fore fun--I like to work as many people as possible.

Asking people to switch modes is obviously helpful. Having the frequency for the other mode already in hand with that second VFO is a big advantage; just tell them to go there while you start up with a CQ.

## TEN METER TEST CONTINUED

Schedule some Novice and Technician contacts; they're worth 8 points! Searching for them is, it seems, a waste of time, but do it. I found 3 stations this year--up 300% from last year.

As in any contest, knowing the band helps. know when the VK/ZL path should be there, and be there waiting, again calling in one mode while searching the other. Ditto for other north/south paths. Have a low antenna for South America. Knowing the ways of Sporadic-E propagation helps immensely. See W2BOC's articles in QST:12/70 and 3/71. Be able to exploit those who "are not in the contest but want to give you a contact anyway". The ability to deal with these folks is a skill worth learning. It's very useful in other contests, especially the CQ WW.

Remember, This band is NEVER truly dead. Don't give up!

73 de Don Daso, W8MAZ

*EDITOR'S COMMENT: Author Daso grew up at Lodi, OH, received a degree in journalism from The College of Wooster and his Master of Fine Arts in Film from Ohio University. Don has followed various aspects of his profession in Ohio, New York, Missouri and North Carolina and now keeps the Dept. of Film operational in Athens at O.U. Don is a new member of MRRRC and will begin to put together a station in Athens after he gets settled into permanent quarters. Welcome and Thanks, Don. Ino*

## SCORES

CQWW SSB: NBCXX-M/S-2,005,600; AD8P-M/M-6,087,500; KE8FX-M/S-748,700;  
WD9INF-S/O-28,000

CQWW CW: W8LLD-SB/20-280,400; NE8T-SB/10-2,000; NBCXX (K8JM OP)-S/O-755,600; K8CC-S/O-1,100,000; W8LNO-S/O-650,000; KS8S-M/M-3,182,600; J6DX-M/M-10,800 Qs, 139Z, 454 COUNTRIES; K8AZ-M/S-2,054,600; W88JBM-SB/20-337,200

ARRL 10 METER TEST: K8JM-6,500; NE8T-14,600

ARRL 160 METER TEST: K8E 329/64 S/O; KS8S 968/103 M/O; K8HFO 650/90 S/O

MORE CWSS--NE8T-A POWER-450/74-67K PTS. ; W8ZDT SSB-B POWER-18 HRS-840/72

THANKS TO K8E FOR HELPING WITH THE ACCUMULATION.

## MRRRC PACKET STATUS

The Packet radio activity in MRRRC is rapidly approaching a critical mass. Currently the following members are active on packet on 145.01 : N8ET, K8MR, KS8S, K8CC, and AD8I. Two of the bulletin boards in Ohio are maintained by MRRRC members - N8ET and AD8I. Also W8YVR (remember him?? ) has a bulletin board up in Bloomington, Ind. Fairly reliable links have been established between all the active members, but at this time the only reliable "MRRRC only" link is between KS8S and N8ET. K8CC can make the connection directly to KS8S, but because of all the activity on 145.01, it is not what you would call a reliable connection. K8MR is in the center of a very active area in Cleveland and linking to Jim or his local bbs (KB8CI) is no problem.

In the dark corners of the K8MR Xmas party we had some brief discussions about linking the multi-op stations in Cleveland with KS8S and then on to Detroit. Sometime in the near future we will be running some tests with WD8IVL and his 56 element array to see if we can establish reliable a link from Cleveland to KS8S or N8ET. If this can be done we then have a way to get multiplier info from Cleveland to KS8S and then to Detroit on some frequency besides 145.01. One more station around the Wooster area would make it feasible to include the Columbus stations in the network (Goose tells me this will happen this summer).

W8YVR has been working(?) on some software similar to what YCCC described in the last issue of NCJ, although it sounds like the work is not proceeding at a very rapid rate! This type of software would not be too difficult to write, and would be very useful if we had a significant number of stations get on to pass multipliers.

If we really get going there are some contest stations in Indiana who would like to link into the MRRRC network also. (W9RE, W8YVR and others).

The packet network has already been used for some communications between club members - the bbs's have been very handy for getting messages between those of us on packet. When a message is left on a local bbs, it will be automatically forwarded to the appropriate bbs for other members to pick up when they check in. In fact - I was just starting to use the packet network to pass traffic to N6AUV before he went into the hospital last month. It only takes an hour or so to get traffic across the country.

In the other rumors department, I have heard that W8UA is going to order a TNC!

Let me know if and when you will be getting on.

73 - Bill - N8ET

## CLUB PROJECT

Everyone talks about doing something to promote contesting. As a Club project, we could operate the Novice Roundup, beginning January 21. With a Club goal of 1000 QSOS, we could really influence the level of Novice and Technician success in the NR. Please send your contact total to W8LNO.

SPRINT REGISTRATION

The February Sprints will be upon us before we know it. Please complete the form(s) below and mail them to the appropriate team captains to be included in the "A" or "B" MRRC teams. Please send these forms by February 1.

\* \* \* \* \*

CW SPRINT

Randy Farmer W8FN  
919 Leatherwood Drive  
New Carlisle, OH 45344

Yes, Randy! I want to be on an MRRC  
CW Sprint team.

Contest Name \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Call \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

SSB SPRINT

Pat Collins NZ4K  
126 E. Lane Avenue, Apt. 1A  
Columbus, OH 43201

Yes, Pat! I will participate on  
an MRRC SSB Sprint Team.

Contest Name \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
Call \_\_\_\_\_