

ALPHA



MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

VOLUME X NO.7 DECEMBER 1988 EDITORS: TED-K8AQM & KEN-WD9INF

Sure is great to be back on the air again. I have spent the last 7 weeks either in Cleveland or Europe. Both on work related assignments. I also got the opportunity to operate from DL land. I spent about 1.5 hrs. on 10 meters. What a thrill to be on the "Other Side".

CQWW

WOW! What good band condition for Phone. Strange condition for CW. At the 'CXX station, we did our best ever on Phone. On CW, K8JM did his best ever also from 'CXX. I am not alone in setting Best Ever Performances. Just look at some of these scores. (Just the ones I know of)

	Phone	CW
K5ZD	4.4M	4.3M (K3TUP)
K3LR	6.1M (K3TUP)	
K8CC	6.1M	2.5M
K8AZ	1.0M	5.1M
K8MR	2.5M	1.5M
N8CXX	3.7M	1.3M

TOTAL OVER 38M

Thats better than we did as a Club last year!!!!!!!

SEND THAT SCORE TO NE8T

Fred will collect all of our scores and submit them to the contest sponsors. When you give Fred your score, include a Rate Sheet. Maybe we can come up with a break down of which bands where the best at certain hours. This type of info could help some of the new members plan for future contest.

SWEEPSTAKES

Living on the either coast and having a good 10 meter system would have generated 2k Q's plus for single ops in the Phone test. That's where the action was this year. In the CW portion, we had some really close competition.

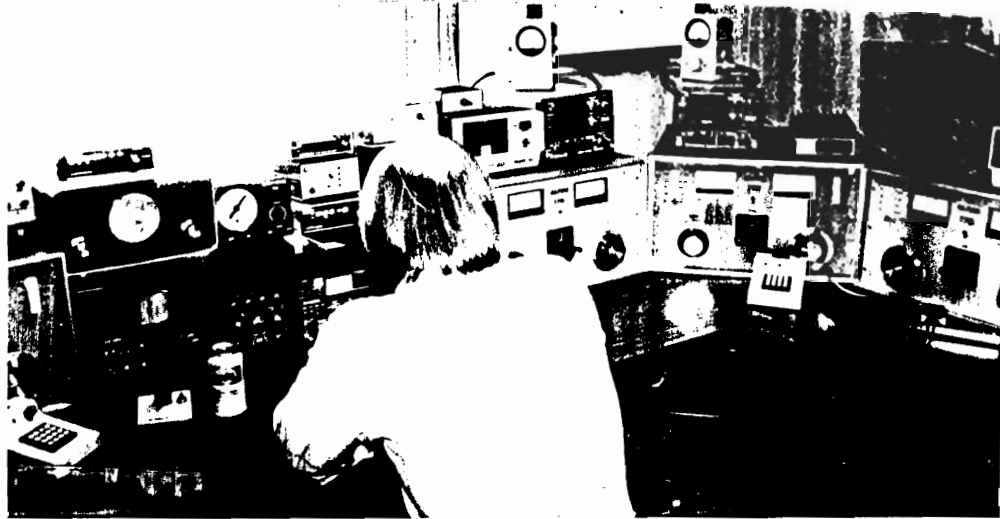
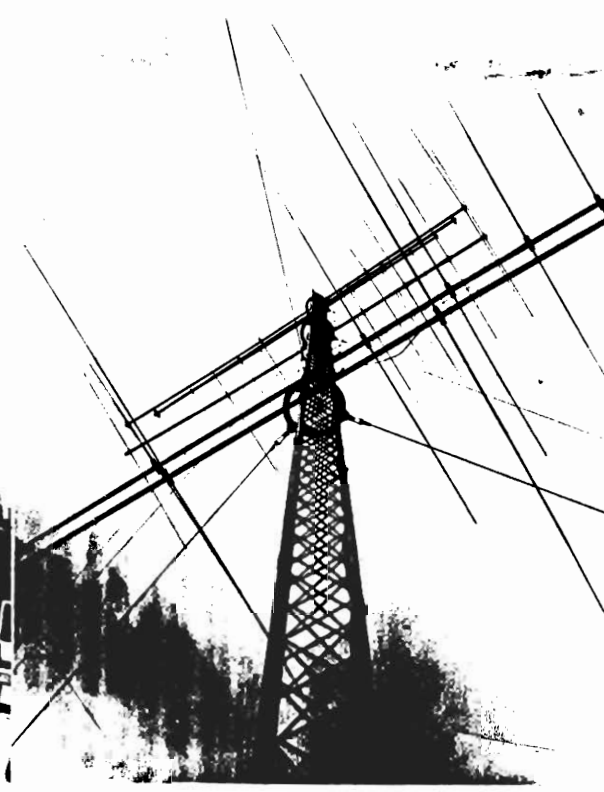
K3LR	1141-76
K3ZD	1111-75
K8CC	1057-74
KW8N	1033-76 (WD8IXE op)

Somewhere in this issue is more results. If you don't see yours, it's because we don't have it!

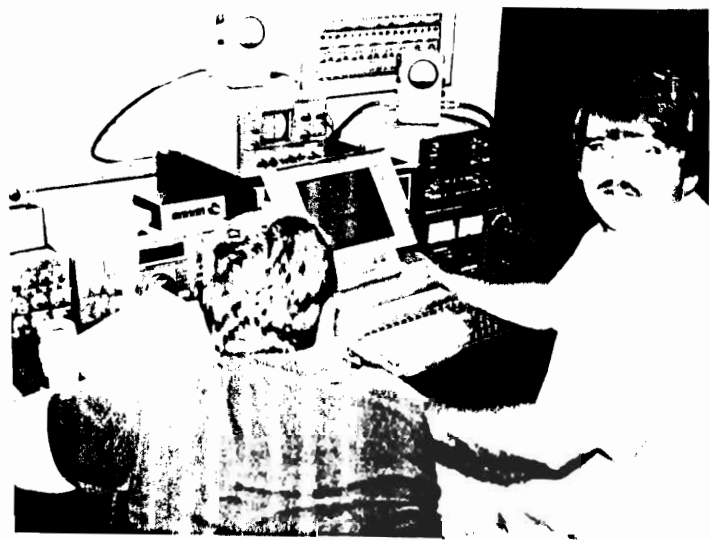
CHRISTMAS PARTY

This years K8MR BASH will be held the first Saturday after New Year's.

That's all for now. I would like to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May we all find ALPHA's under the tree.



Summer Picnic
pictures from K3TUP
and K8AQM



SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR OHIO

HIGH POWER

CW		SSB	
78 K8NZ	161320-1090-74	78 W8KIC(WB8MZZ)	219450-1463-75
78 K8MR	158508-1071-74	81 K8ND(WB8MZZ)	217412-1469-74
81 K8NZ	157916-1067-74	76 WA8PLZ(WB8AYC)	213014-1459-73
78 W8WPC(K8BPX)	156584-1058-74	77 W8KIC(WB8MZZ)	208800-1392-75
87 WD8IXE	156288-1056-74	78 K8AZ	207150-1380-75
87 K8AZ(K8NZ)	155400-1050-74	78 K8MR	205350-1369-75
77 K8MR	154216-1041-74	81 K8MN	204832-1384-74
80 K8NZ	152884-1037-74	79 WB8MZZ	202464-1368-74
77 WA8YWX(K3LR)	151552-1024-74	82 K8ND	199208-1346-74
87 W8FN	147752-1012-73	82 W8JI(WB8MZZ)	196988-1331-74

LO POWER

CW		SSB	
87 K8ND	117822-807-73	81 K8EE	118114-809-73
87 KQ8M	117434-827-71	82 K8EE	113150-775-73
79 K8EKG	116800-800-73	86 KQ8M	108624-744-73
82 K8BL	110016-764-72	87 K8BL	104390-715-73
82 KU8E	109872-763-72	80 WA6EZV/3	104340-705-74
83 KU8E	109520-740-74	83 KC8JH	100010-685-73
78 K8EKG	108216-752-72	80 KA8D	98532-714-69
85 KU8E	107596-727-74	75 WB8MZZ	96702-681-71
85 KQ8M	103392-718-72	78 WD8ALC	94572-639-74
84 K8EE	102816-714-72	85 K8BL	92880-645-72

MULTI-OP

CW		SSB	
83 WB8JBM	161616-1092-74	85 WB8JBM	255744-1728-74
82 WB8JBM	154944-1076-72	87 WD9INF	245100-1634-75
81 WB8JBM	154322-1057-73	83 WB8JBM	229252-1549-74
84 WB8JBM	150088-1028-73	86 WB8JBM	228068-1541-74
74 WB8JBM	147022-1007-73	82 WB8JBM	205128-1386-74
79 K8ND	142080- 960-74	80 K8ND	202464-1368-74
81 K8ND	141044- 953-74	81 WB8JBM	202464-1368-74
78 WB8JBM	138380- 935-74	80 WB8JBM	201918-1383-73
80 WB8JBM	137232- 953-72	79 WB8JBM	200096-1352-74
86 W8LT	135716- 917-74	79 K8ND	196544-1328-74

SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR MICHIGAN

HI POWER

CW		SSB	
83 WABYVR	159100-1075-74	78 KBLX (WABZDT)	223200-1488-75
78 KBLX	153150-1021-75	81 KBLX (WABZDT)	222592-1504-74
83 KBCC	152144-1028-74	79 KBLX (WABZDT)	212528-1436-74
86 KBCC	151848-1026-74	74 WABYVR	204092-1379-74
77 KBLX (WABZDT)	151694-1039-73	72 WABZDT	187738-1272-74
81 KBCC	147852-1045-72	78 K9OK/8 (WB9DZS)	186000-1240-75
79 WBUA (WABZDT)	147852- 999-74	78 W8FF	182650-1215-75
81 KBLX	147852- 999-74	77 WBRC	174900-1166-75
84 KBCC	146964- 993-74	75 WABZDT	168338-1153-73
79 KBLX	146438-1003-73	83 KBCC	167184-1161-72

LO POWER

CW		SSB	
74 WBCQN	137492- 929-74	83 WDBMGO	154364-1043-74
76 WBCQN	131254- 899-73	85 WDBMGO	151548-1038-73
75 WBCQN	116060- 829-70	84 WDBMGO	125060- 845-74
77 KBIF	113734- 779-73	76 WBTR (WABPSD)	117718- 829-71
81 NBEA	103660- 730-71	82 WDBMGO	116476- 787-74
76 WABZAV	102528- 712-72	78 WBLAQ	113442- 777-73
78 WABMAM	102120- 690-74	80 WBJWN	107448- 726-74
79 WABMAM	101616- 696-73	76 WABWWH	106642- 751-71
78 WBLAQ	101388- 714-71	76 KBIDE (WBTR)	106050- 707-75
76 WBSH (NBSR)	100944- 701-72	79 WBJWN	104932- 709-74

MULTI-OP

CW		SSB	
87 K8AQM	162504-1098-74	87 KBCC	214500-1430-75
77 W8UM	125720- 898-70	87 N8CXX	205050-1367-75
86 K8AQM	120960- 840-72	87 K8MJZ	204150-1361-75
80 W8UM	110016- 764-72	83 WD8CRY	192992-1304-74
79 W8UM	105376- 712-74	81 K8SS	182208-1248-73
84 K8JRK	102200- 700-73	86 W8SH	179672-1214-74
83 K8AQM	100196- 677-74	82 WD8CRY	179376-1212-74
74 W8BFUO	97056- 674-72	85 W8SH	176860-1195-74
75 W8UM	91254- 681-67	80 WD8CRY	173308-1171-74
79 W8SYDR	81030- 555-73	81 WD8CRY	158264-1084-73

PACKET NOTES

As reported in the last issue of the Flash, the Packet Cluster software is on line at K8AZ, 144.95 on your radio dial, in Chesterland, Ohio. Access is solid via W8CAR in Sandusky, OH, and K8MR in Parma, OH; somewhat propagation dependent links are available via K8CC (Ypsilanti, MI) or K3LR (West Middlesex, PA). I guess we still need some more aluminum or possibly another digi to get these truly solid.

I have added a 40 watt amplifier to my digi in Parma - mounted on the tower, with only about 12 feet of coax from the amplifier to the antenna. There is no receive preamp, but this may be attempted in the spring.

Two suggestions for contest PacketCluster operation:

- 1) It's helpful to know about good multipliers that are tuning the bands answering CQs. However detailed frequency info is not needed since the station will be gone before anyone could get to it, and since no one wants to give up a clear frequency to an instant pileup! Therefore just enter the band (14, 21, etc.) instead of the full frequency in the case of a good spot calling in. For example, "DX 5Z4MR 21".
- 2) Turn the beacons off! At the very least set them for a Beacon After interval, rather than Beacon Every.

K8MR

CHEAP FEEDLINE FOR YOUR PACKET STATION

So you've finally decided to go big time with your two meter packet setup and want to put up a real antenna near the top of your big tower. You of course want low loss feedline. If you like to spend money, fine, go out and order a few hundred feet of 9913 or 50 ohm hardline. But if you're cheap like me, give the ubiquitous 75 ohm CATV hardline a try.

The simplest method, which will work OK, is to just stick the 75 ohm line in service and ignore the mismatch and resulting VSWR of 1.5 or so. But if you have swrophobia, or a solid state rig with acute sensitivity to mismatch, and if you're interested in a particular frequency range, read on. Make use of the fact that half wave multiples of any transmission line will show the terminating impedance at the source end.

For example consider a 160 foot length of line with a velocity factor of 0.8 (typical for hardline). This is $29\frac{1}{2}$ wavelengths at 145.17 MHz, and 30 wavelengths at 147.64 MHz. It is also $29\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength at 143.95, and $29\frac{3}{4}$ wavelengths at 146.41, for which 50 ohms at the load will show up as 112.5 ohms at the source.

You'll want a flexible jumper (I use 75 ohm coax, RG-59 or RG-11, to keep the line impedance uniform) at each end. Published velocity factors are not very exact, so it's best to experimentally find the right length and adjust the length of the coax jumper at the shack end.

With a 50 ohm load or antenna at the far end (including jumpers) find the frequencies where the reflected power is lowest. If the low SWR frequency is above the desired frequency, add cable; if the low SWR frequency is below the desired frequency, shorten the cable. A quarter wavelength of normal coax (v.f.= 0.66) is about $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches at 2 meters. For the example above, a quarter wavelength also equals about 1.12 MHz (distance between adjacent peaks and nulls). Therefore a 1" change in length moves the frequency about 100KHz. Note that the distance between peaks and nulls depends on the overall line length, so if the overall length changes, so will the 1" per 100KHz figure. For a line of 320 feet (twice the length of the example above) the spacing between nulls is about .56 MHz, and 1" of line moves the frequency about 50 KHz.

K8MR

The Contesters Stress Diet

Has the stress of contesting been getting you down? Well this new diet has been designed to help you cope with the stress of long hours at the mike and the frustration of finding, after four hours of calling cq, that your antenna was disconnected.

Needless to say, this diet can also help if you have a high stress job and feel the need to balance this pressure with the little satisfactions of life when you get home.

Breakfast:

1/2 grapefruit
1 slice whole wheat toast, dry
8 oz. skim milk

Lunch:

4 oz. lean broiled chicken breast
1 cup steamed spinach
1 cup herb tea
1 oreo cookie

Midafternoon snack:

rest of the oreos in the package
2 pints rocky road ice cream
1 jar hot fudge sauce
1/2 cup cherries, whipped cream

Evening:

2 loaves garlic bread with cheese
large sausage, mushroom & cheese pizza
4 cans or 1 large pitcher of beer
3 milky way candy bars

Late evening news:

entire frozen cheesecake eaten directly from freezer

Rules for this Diet

1. If you eat something and no one sees you eat it, it has no calories.
2. If you drink a diet soda with a candy bar, the calories in the candy bar are cancelled out by the diet soda.
3. When you eat with someone else, calories don't count if you don't eat more than they do.
4. Food used for medicinal purposes never counts, such as hot chocolate, brandy, toast and Sara Lee cheesecake.
5. If you fatten up everyone else around you, you look thinner.
6. Movie-related foods do not have additional calories because they are part of the entire entertainment package and not part of one's personal fuel, such as milk duds, buttered popcorn, junior mints, red hots, and tootsie rolls.
7. Cookie pieces contain no calories. the process of breakage causes calorie leakage.
8. Things licked off of knives and spoons have no calories if you are in the process of preparing something. Examples are peanut butter on a knife making a sandwich and ice cream on a spoon making a sundae.
9. Foods that have the same color have the same number of calories. Examples are spinach and pistacio ice cream, mushrooms and white chocolate. Note - chocolate is a universal color and may be substituted for any other food color.

This diet should improve your outlook on life before, during or after any particularly stressful contest, whether it be against other hams on 80 meters or against your boss on company policy.

Brought to you from the TDXS,
BULLSHEET

Come out with your hands up! I'm armed with a Bencher!

(de Bill, K2TNO)

The following is my own true story of an operation from the home QTH during Sprint CW, September 1988. The names have been unchanged to indict the guilty.

I got out of the box really well this time. Twenty played fine for about an hour, and after about another 90 minutes I realized on 40 that I was really cooking! I was staying even with the rest of the regulars, which I usually can manage to do until we go to 80 where my antennas stink. Oh yeah, you don't have any idea what I have on this city lot, do you? I run a tri-band Gemquad on a crankup at 60 feet, a pair of fullwave loops fed at the base for 40 strung through two giant oak trees in the front yard, and a Butternut HF2V for 40 dx and for 80. I also have a terrible inverted vee for 80 with the apex at 45 feet but it's pointed north-south and is a rotten antenna. The rig is a TS 930 driving a Clipperton amp at about 900 watts out.

So anyway, it was kind of a typical Sprint for me, doing well on 20 and 40, and expecting once again to get pasted on 80, finishing about fifth in my own team's lineup. But lo and behold!! Came the 80 meter time and I was still right up there!! Mults were way up; maybe this would be the year that I'd finally break 300 Q's and the 10K point barrier. I'd also taken all of my usual precautions I reserve for SERIOUS contests like Sprint: (1) inform neighbors I'll be killing their TV sets Saturday night from 7 to 11 so why don't they go to a movie? (2) unwired the shack telephone so they can't disturb me (3) sent XYL and jr op to a shopping mall and a movie (4) schlepped a cooler of Cokes for during (and beers for after) the contest and (5) locked myself into the garage shack area after turning out all the house lights. Just a nice, comfortable Saturday of radio for the kid.

The time is now 0325, and I'm S and P'ing on 80. The rate is going great! Somehow I'm even able to get some responses when I QRZ after inheriting a frequency. Knock, knock, knock goes the door to the shack. I ignore it and hit the "K2TNO NA" button on the CK-1. KaBNOOM-KaBOOM-KaBOOM!! goes the knocking door this time. "W1WEF 265 Bill Tx K2TNO", I reply in cw to this latest intrusion. Still it won't quit-- there goes the damned knocking again --- Oh hell I gotta answer the door! I hit the CQ button to save the freq and dart to the door, unlatch the sliding bolt and open it, ready to do mayhem upon the bodies of the interlopers in my contest fanatic's fantasy world.

Is it an irate neighbor complaining about TVI? No, what I see before me jerks me back to semi-reality: there stands my 10-year-old daughter all in tears and Momma behind her who looks like she's just seen a ghost.

DADDYCOMEQUICKTHERESABURGLARIN-
THEHOUSEANDHESHIDINGIN
THELINENCLOSETONTHESECONDFLOOR!

The cans on the operating table come alive with band noise as the CQ finishes, and I hear K1ZX drop his call. My mind whipsaws from burglary to Iceman and back again. Jim will be gone and so will my rate, I think.

"What's going on? What the hell do you need that can't wait?", my eyes demand of my wife.

DADDYREALLYREALLYOUGOT
TACOMERIGHTAWAYTHEBURGLARISTHEREAN
DIMSCAREDOHDADDYIMSOSCARED!

My training as an urban cowboy comes rushing back. This is all I need, two hysterical broads standing there in the garage yelling at me. Omigod! What if they're right?! I've been out here in the garage, and they've been gone for hours- maybe there really IS someone in the house!

DADDYPLEASEPLEASEYOUHAF
TAGOANDGETHIMOUTRIGHTAWAYBECAUSETHEK
ITTYISINSIDETHEHOUSEANDIMSCARED
HEWILLHURTTHEKITTY!

I go into defend-the-homestead-against-the-Comanches mode after that last blast. Frantically, I race toward the house, stopping at the garage door only long enough to grasp the biggest, meanest anti-burglar weapon you ever saw in a leftwing eastern liberal's garage: a shovel. And I unchain the fierce guard dog at my disposal, a year-old Labrador (VO1 would be a mult) puppy who can literally lick a person to death in hours. I race into the house (bravely following the dog who thinks this is great fun since she usually isn't allowed into the house). I bound up the stairs and spy the evil linen closet door, behind which lurks the devil incarnate of my daughter's fertile imagination.

I grab the door handle and pull quickly, so I can get this damned charade over with and return to what's left of the contest. My pull opens the door about an inch, when just as suddenly the door is PULLED SHUT AGAIN FROM THE INSIDE! Egad, there really is someone in there! I pull the door even harder-- Whupp! The door is pulled shut even more firmly!! I step back away from the door and briefly ponder my next move - the old shovel trick!

There's a part of the brain that we have inherited almost unchanged by evolution: it controls an instinctive reaction to protect one's territory. I hoist the shovel and begin attacking the middle of the door like a madman! As a fullgrown biochemistry professor, I'm not in the best of shape, but at over 200 pounds when I get the hang of attacking a door with a shovel I quickly destroy the target. The door panel is a pile of rubble in three fast chops, revealing the inside of the closet and my hidden tormentor.

I expect to hear him begging for mercy as I chop, but the reason for the silence is revealed along with the closet's innermost recesses: there's nobody there but the bed linens and the towels! (In retrospect, I can say in all candor that the linens were scared out of their wits).

I look inside, startled to find the emptiness where felons are to lurk. What the heck is going on? Suddenly the immense stupidity of the whole act comes over me: the closet door sticks at the top! If you open it in a normal fashion it works fine, but if you yank on the knob the top grabs. The harder and faster you pull, the more force you build up to re-pull the door closed. Just like somebody inside pulling from the other side!

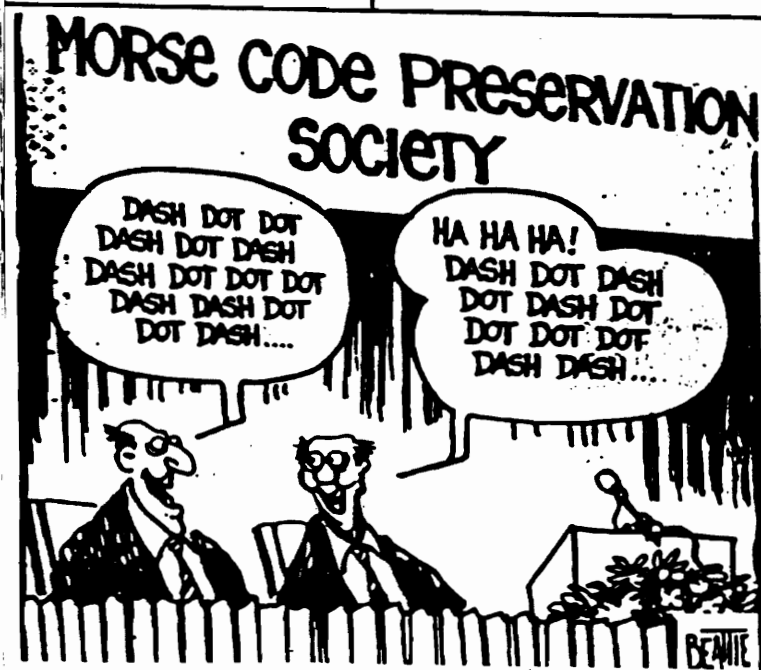
I race back down the hall, nimbly leaping clear of the scattered shards of what had once been a handsome closet door. "There's nobody here," I cry as I fly past my family cowering near the back door. I say not another word, nor even break stride as the Terminator in me subsides and K2TNO begins to take over again. I bet I'm the only op in the contest who actually "sprinted" to his shack. I re-latch the door from the inside, and quickly ponder upon what suitable invectives will be fitting when the XYL soon appears to demand that I fix the door I busted.

I grab a pencil, put on the cans and begin to tune. Another station signs his call and "NA". A clear invitation to drop in my call. I punch at memory button 5 on the CK-1, but my finger flies off to the left at the last moment and I activate number 7, the CQ one. Damn! Just more useless QRM, and I listen helplessly as some other op gets the QSO. A couple of tunes and I get my first QSO of the post-bash era. This time I break the auto pencil lead about five times and throw the Pentel across the desk, grabbing for a real yellow wood one with about a 4H lead that even a four-year-old couldn't break. I realize I'm shaking like a leaf! I can barely send on the paddles; the first few times I try I cause those little pivots to jump out on both sides, totally disabling the paddle (you Bencher owners know what I mean, non-Bencher types wouldn't understand anyway).

I look at the clock: it's only 0330. The whole crazy episode has taken only five minutes of my life, but seemed like it took ages. My nerves are shot, I can't hit the right buttons, and my writing looks like the handwriting of some outpatient. Somehow I muddle through the remaining thirty minutes of the Sprint: no longer was I even with the leaders; no longer was I able to CQ effectively; no longer did I get a QSO on each try. It was business back to the usual old-fashioned way: TNO getting stomped on 80, my old nemesis.

I finish with 290 QSO's, a personal best but oh-so-agonizingly far from the three century mark. Once again I'm fifth in the TDXS team. Only this time I have something else, something no other contester in the land could share with me this night: I have a closet door that needs a lot of fixing.

73, Tuna



SMOKE de Anonymous

I was working on a home electronics project the other day and as I was testing it, I came across probably the most important realization and discovery of my life and, perhaps, of this century. I had incorrectly wired a diode on a PC board. When I powered up the microprocessor, I discovered that for years all of us who have had to work with electronics and repair electric circuits have suffered under the completely incorrect conclusions about how these circuits actually work.

I discovered that, in reality, it is SMOKE that makes all electrical things work! I can prove it. Remember the last time smoke escaped from your voltage regulator? Didn't it quit working? I sat there at my work bench and smiled like a fool, as more of the truth dawned. Of course...it's the wiring harness that carries the smoke from one device to another. When the harness springs a leak, it lets smoke out of everything at once and then nothing works. It should be obvious to anyone, at this point, that my theory has to be correct. However, to further prove my theory and do away with any possible speculation, I ask you to look at the starter...The starter motor obviously needs large quantities of smoke to operate properly and that's why the wire going to it is so large. If improvements to wiring are achieved, we are going to have to find a way to keep smoke from leaking out of the wiring much the same way as we do by keeping air from leaking out of tires.

K8MR'S AFTER NEW YEAR'S PARTY!

The annual bash and meeting at K8MR's will be held this year on JANUARY 7. Jim sent along a great map on the location of his home and the easy routing to get there. Unfortunately, in a fit of holiday cleaning, my XYL pitched not only the great map that Jim sent but other important papers that I had with it. I guess I should have listened to her after the 4th or 5th time she threatened to throw that pile away when I wouldn't move it from the desk! Anyway, I'm sorry Jim but I'm sure that if anyone needs motel information and directions that between the Monday night net and the twisted pair (number on roster) that they can get complete routing.

SS SCORE RUMORS

K8DD	700 x 74
WBEDU	781 x 75
K8BM	287 x 61
K8CC	1057 x 71

CQ WW SCORE RUMORS

SSB	CW
K5ZD/3 SO 4.3 Meg	K3TUP (K3LR) 4.4 Meg
W8CAR SO 289K	W8IQ 40m 25,875
K3TUP (K3LR) 6,022,082	
W8IQ 10m 27,700	

K8AQM PA QSO PARTY

160 CW 17 SSB 26 80 CW 64 SSB 102	40 CW 166 SSB 231 20 CW 35 SSB 63	15 CW 1 SSB 3 10 SSB 3	428 SSB QSOs 283 CW QSOs <hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> 711 QSOs 59,831 pTs All 67 Counties
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