

FLASH



MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

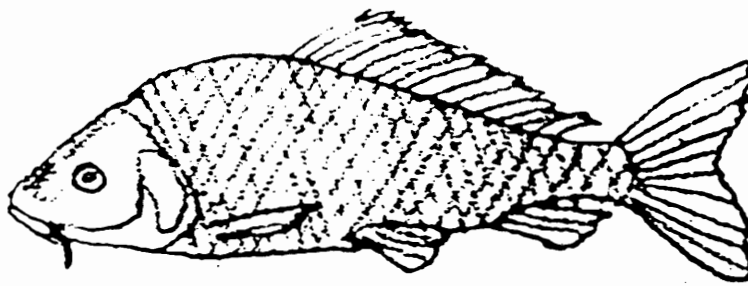
VOLUME XI NO. 3 JUNE 1989 EDITORS: KEN-WD9INF & TED-K8AQM

DAYTON SUCCESS!! The suite at Dayton sure proved to be a success this year. While handling beer by the can vs. keg proved to be an extra hassle, the end result was most positive: All expenses covered with some left over! The bar handled 18 cases of beer (with 3 left over-Goose promised not to let any extras go 'bad') 5 cases of pop, 1 case of wine coolers and several bottles gin, bourbon, and vodka. It was good to see pictures of club members and their stations (there was room for more), the packet station attracted much interest and provided an opportunity for many to make their first packet contact, and all MR members were willing to help out where needed. Probably my biggest frustration was the mysterious disappearance of our MRRC Suite signs posted throughout Stouffers. It seemed that the ONLY signs left unmolested were the Society of Midwest Contesters. Makes you wonder....

While we're still without a suite for next year, there's much time yet to make alternate plans. Our Fish is on top of the situation, though, and hopefully one of the 'booked' suites will open. Steve, WD8IXE expressed some interest in managing the suite and refreshments next year. Whoever is in charge next year should be reminded that we DON'T need professional models at 2AM!!! (By the way, I was told by the desk clerk that the Hamvention is the largest convention to come to Dayton; and the only one where the local hookers go broke!!!)

The next FLASH is scheduled to go out in August. Your contributions of news and articles are really needed. Let us know what's happening at your station. Send it to either INF or AQM.

There are still some copies left of the MRRC Anthology: Hints and Kinks from the Flash. If you don't have yours yet, let the editors know. It's well worth the \$2.00



FROM THE FISH... K8MR

Deja Vu....

The annual Dayton MRRRC included the traditional railroad democracy in action ceremony, with the result of history repeating itself a sunspot cycle or so later, that is yours truly returning as Big Fish. Elected to the treasurer's post is Goose Steingass, WD8LLD. If you haven't yet paid your 89-90 dues, please send them (\$7.00) to Goose at 1690 N. Honeytown Road, Wooster, OH 44691.

Philosophy...

I believe that any contest which has a club section deserves a Mad River Radio Club entry, whether we're seriously competing for top honors or whether we're likely to be in 46th place. If we get the minimum entries for contests such as WPX or VHF SS, we'll submit the paperwork and get listed. Of course the big ones - CQWW, ARRL DX, SS - are the ones where we want to be at the top!

I am not presently planning to continue the Regional Vice President appointments. I will seek help and advice from various members throughout the territory; for contest organization I want a volunteer to take charge of any contest we intend to be in seriously as a club. Coordinators for CQWW and SS will be needed shortly - any takers?

We've Moved

At the Dayton meeting we voted to move the club center to Bucyrus, Ohio, from its previous center in Marion. This increases our territory in Michigan and gives a better fit for Erie and Pittsburgh.

FIELD DAY

Coming soon is the one weekend of the year when the bands are packed with contest activity, with hardly a net or ragchewer to get in the way of great rates. It's June, and it must be Field Day!! (June 24-25) Several years ago MRRC had an interesting intraclub class Field Day competition. One year we were pushing ten groups competing. A rotating plaque was established.

Over the past few years, activity in the club has fallen off. Several of the key individuals were moving and/or becoming antenna farmers, for whom a summer weekend meant another chance to get another antenna up or repaired. Many of these stations are now getting as close to complete as one ever gets. Will we see a return to the FD Fight??

The club plaque will go to the highest scoring 1-A effort, 150 watts out - no QRP/battery inflated scores. Bonus points are kosher - if you want to work packet via satellite from a shopping center information booth while giving novice tests to junior high students. I'm just planning to be out in a field making lots of QSOs.

Note: 12 and 17 meters count as real bands. 30 meters is still a no-no. I don't know how much activity to expect on the WARC bands, but they're fair game, both phone and CW.

18.068 - 18.110 CW 18.110 - 18.168 SSB

24.890 - 24.930 24.930 - 24.990

GOOD LUCK!!!

Jim - K8MR

(Don't forget to send in your Field Day reports for publication in the FLASH.)

PACKET NOTES

The link between Cleveland and Toledo/MI is still, at best, marginal. Two part-time digis which may be of help are KC8IQ in Monroe, MI and WB8VZB in Oregon, OH. Both get to W8CAR / SAN when they are on.

KB8NW-1 in Strongsville, OH southwest side of Cleveland, has a gateway from 144.95 to 145.01. K8AZ can be accessed by using whatever path on 145.01 to KB8NW-1; connect to KB8NW-1; then cross-connect (X K8AZ).

WD9INF has added an 80 watt amplifier at his station in Toledo (Sylvania) but cannot always connect with W8CAR. K8CC has a G-7 vertical slated for installation at 105 feet. K8AQM continues to be off the air thanks to a recent thunderstorm.

Include a contest exchange in your connect message for Field Day (June 24-25) and the June VHF QSO Party (June 10-11). Help out contesters looking for every contact.

The Big Fish now has his own personal BBS, K8MR-2, on 144.95.

ODDS AND ENDS

Congratulations to recent OSU/W8LT graduates WD8IXE and KD8NS. Steve received an M.S.E.E. and is working in the Dayton area although the company is headquartered in sunny Santa Barbara. Mike, who received the B.S.E.E. is already in the sun, working in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

CQ is rumored to be planning a single op + spotting (packet) category in the CQWW.

WD9INF will be operating VE2ZP or CH3XDX/2 for the Canada Day Contest July 1st. You can work him on all bands on both modes.

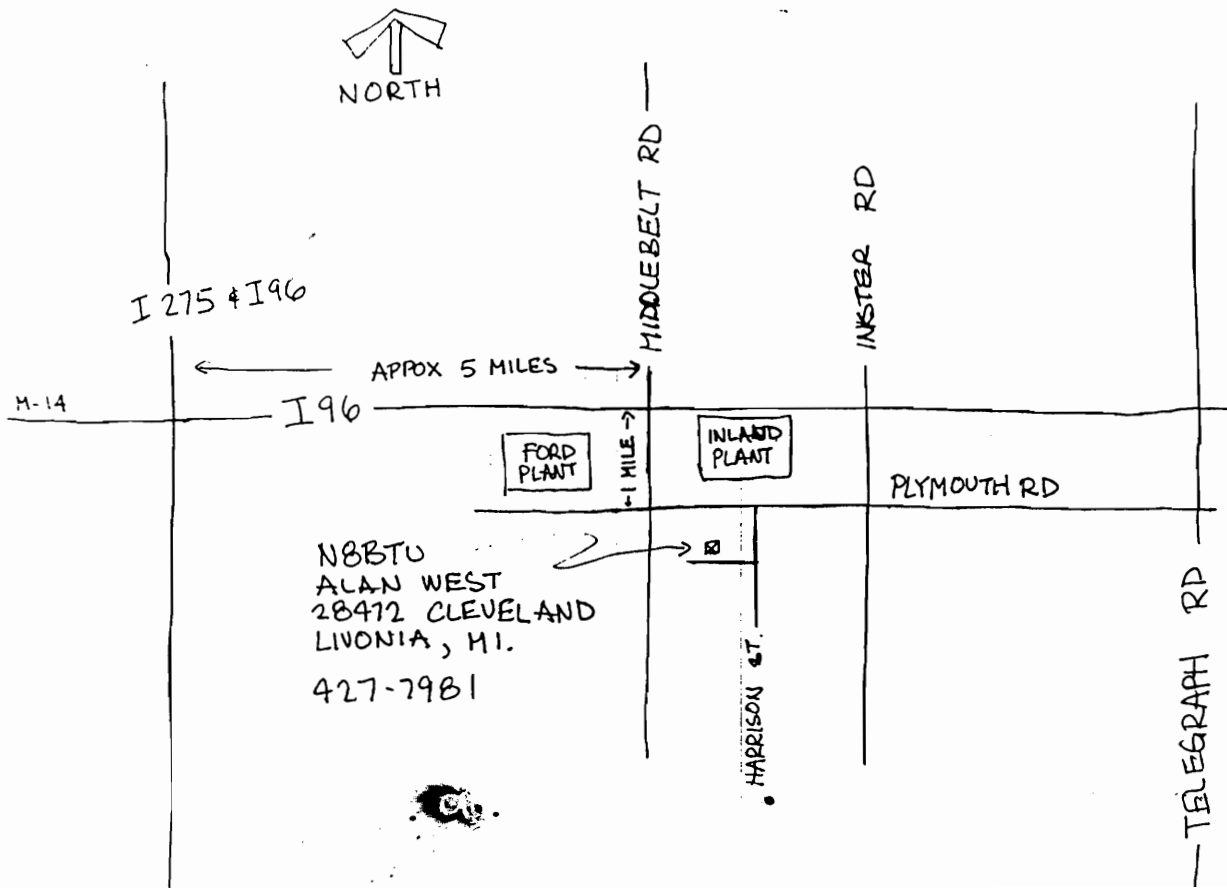
We got on the list for a suite at Stouffer's at Dayton next year. The 4 large suites were already grabbed up as of the day after the Hamvention. Kansas City may be moving to a banquet room, in which case we get their room. Stay tuned . . .

Five years ago in the Flash: N8ET, aka G5CMX, became the new big Fish; WD8LLD and N8CXX were just moving and starting to build stations; and Tim Duffy "has acquired another 'secret weapon' for his contest arsenal..." in the form of wedding bells on June 9. Wow, five years!! Congratulations Tim and Sandy.

W8IQ will be traveling to France for a convention in July. While ham radio is not an objective on this trip, he will be making application for FP licensing in 1990.

Both K8AQM and WD9INF stations plan to be active for the IARU HF World Test (Radiosport) July 8-9.

The SUMMER MEETING at WD8LLD's has been cancelled but the Michigan picnic at N8BTU's is on for JULY 22. Alan lives in Livonia, MI just off I-96. His map looks easy to follow!



The North Coast Contesters

At the top of club concerns here is the formation of a new-
a rival? - contest club by a number of MRRCers in WPA and northeast
Ohio. The NCC was formed in February, reportedly out of dissatisfaction
with Mad River's perceived lack of contest activity.

I can well understand the appeal of a group where everyone can
get together with an hour's drive. But I think the categorization
of MRRC as other than a contest club is a bad rap. Could we do a
better job? Of course. But the fact is that however gung-ho a group
is, as a contest club it will eventually be judged by the caliber
of the scores it produces. Given the lower population density here
in the midwest, and the geographic disadvantages vs. the East coast
in the DX contests and vs. the southwest and West coast in domestic
contests, we must use the territorial limits to the maximum to get
the pool of testers needed for competitive club activity.

MRRC can do better in the contests. It will take efforts from
all of us - including some who aren't "us" yet. We will keep
working at the contests, bringing new blood into our club, and
keep having a good time doing it. And I hope it will continue to be
with those who might wear an NCC badge as well.

MAILING LABEL

This issue of the FLASH is being mailed to all club members
appearing on the current MRRC roster. You will note that
under your call either a "P" or an "*" and a number appear.
If a "P" appears, your dues for 1989 have been paid. An "*"
beneath your call means your 1989 dues are now due. You
must pay your dues if you want to continue to receive the
FLASH. Send them to Goose, WD8LLD. The number that appears
is the number of meetings you have attended in 1989. You
need two meetings to be eligible to compete with MRRC in the
club category in the contests. Any questions or
corrections, contact Goose.



DAYTON 89

