

FLASH



MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

VOLUME XI NO. 4

AUGUST 1989

EDITORS: KEN-WD9INF and TED-K8AQM

SUMMER MEETING . . . The summer Michigan meeting at Alan's (N8BTU) saw 15 MRRC members gather for a great picnic provided by Alan and his wife. Lots of good burgers and plenty of cold "stuff" provided an informal atmosphere for contest talk and antenna plans. It was amazing to see what antennas can be packed on a city lot like Alan's. Alan's station was well equipped and it was great to see how easy it was to get into the K8NLD-1 cluster from there. Many thanks to Alan and his wife for their hospitality!

FINDLAY . . . The Findlay Hamfest on September 10 will see our annual fall MRRC meeting. The meeting is scheduled for noon at a place yet to be announced. Of course, with the Findlay Hamfest comes the annual N8ET Bash!! Once again Bill has invited us to his QTH Saturday night (after 5pm). Floor space is available for sleeping. If you're not quite inclined to "rough it," Bill has motel numbers for you. You can contact Bill at (419) 477-5376.

N8ET DIRECTIONS . . . Exit I-75 about 10 miles south of Findlay on S.R. 235 North. Go through the blinker light to the stop light in the Center of Mt. Cory. At the stoplight turn left (west) on Washington Street (C.R.26). N8ET is about 1/4 mile west of the stoplight in Mt. Cory on the right (north) side of the road. It's the ONLY antenna farm in Mt. Cory!!! Bill will also be monitoring the Findlay repeater (147.15/75). Check the map elsewhere in the Flash.

CQ WW SSB . . . The September issue of CQ had the official announcement for the 1989 CQ WW Tests. A new category has been created for the single op allowing for use of DX spotting through packet or 2M. Choosing this category also lifts the 10 minute band rule. Make sure you read the rules!

THE MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT: Jim Stahl - K8MR
30499 Jackson Rd.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

TREASURER: Goose Steingass - WD8LLD
1690 N. Hometown Road
Wooster, Ohio 44691

***** MONDAY NIGHT NET - 3.825 MHz at 0030Z (8:30 local) *****

FROM THE FISH . . . K8MR

No big speeches this month; just a number of miscellaneous items. Enclosed this month is a Contest Operating Ethics Survey by CQ editor K1AR. This is the same one published in August CQ. K1AR asked for our help in distributing the survey, getting it to non-subscribers, and saving you the effort of copying yourself or mutilating your own copy of CQ. Soapbox-style comments are also appreciated. Surveys go directly to CQ magazine.

A reminder that treasurer WD8LLD is adding work phone numbers to the MRRC membership data base. If you are able and willing to get calls at work, send the number to Goose. Also, club dues are due if you haven't paid since Dayton.

With sadness we share the news that Bob Scott, WB8JEY, operator of the Columbus Packet Cluster DX BBS, passed away July 17.

Note for your schedules upcoming meetings at the Findlay Hamfest on September 10 along with N8ET's annual picnic the evening before. Also, the annual K8MR New Year's Bash on Saturday, 6 January 1990.

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FROM THE ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JULY 21-22: The CAC was asked to develop a recommended standard computer-file format for contest participants to use when submitting log data for ARRL contests. (Minute 64) The CAC was told to recommend how to best accomodate single ops using voice or packet assistance before the rules are established for the contests to be run in 1990. (Minute 74)
CQ CD? The report of the Volunteer Resources Committee covered a "new Field organization QSO Party for which staff will develop rules." (Minute 19)

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WAE: The Worked All Europe contest has added a club competition this year, according to thrules published in August CQ magazine. The only reporting requirement is that entries must clearly indicate their club name on the summary sheet. Although this is too late for CW, and the phone falls on the Findlay weekend, try to send in an entry if you operate the contest; there's a trophy for the winning club outside of Europe.

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FIVE YEARS AGO in the FLASH: The first annual N8ET pre-Findlay Bash was announced; K8MR's automatic bandswitching for the TS-830S was described; and W8LNO had obtained a block of rooms for the upcoming Dayton Hamvention, at Stouffer's, with prices in the \$mid-sixties for a double. If only our paycheck's had gone up likewise in the past five years!!
TEN YEARS AGO: a post-contest look at the Field Day 2A/1A effort from the W8TK farm in Delaware, Ohio: K8MR was looking for help for a CQ WW SSB trip to VP5MRX.

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THE MAD RIVER PRACTICAL CONTESTER

In this issue is a start of our own Practical Contester. The general idea is an outright steal from Fred Hoppengarten, K1VR, who has written up various ideas for better contesting in the YCCC Scuttlebutt and NCJ (see NCJ, Nov/Dec 1988, p.9). The particular suggestions are intended to be original.

When taking my night's sleep in a DX contest (if you can call 2-3 hours a night!) I make a point to sleep in my regular clothes, minus shoes and belt. Not that it saves any time, but it does remind me when the alarm goes off that something different is going on. No, I'm not supposed to get up to go to work, but to go back to the radio where I was having so much fun a few hours ago!!

When operating in the lesser known contests, especially on phone, I keep a note, posted near me, where the contest rules were published. When a non-participant calls in and asks what contest this is, I can quickly tell him it's the NCJ North American QSO Party, full details on page 90 of March QST or page 84 of April CQ. If he's interested, he knows where to look for more info (after giving me his name and state), and I don't need to fill him in on who he can and cannot work, the hours of the contest, etc.

Just what do you load into your memory keyer? I've settled into the following for my eight memory K9CW keyer. I use an old touch-tone pad mounted in a BUD CU-124 die cast box, arranged as such:

8	9	L	F
4	5	6	7
0	1	2	3

I load it as follows, using the CQ WW as an Example.

0	CQ TEST DE K8MR K8MR TEST K	6	TU K8MR
1	5NNT4 K	7	K8MR
2	TU DE K8MR TEST K	8,9	not used in keyer
3	K8MR	L=	Load
4	CQ TEST K8MR TEST K	F=	Function
5	R TU 5NNT4 K		

Note that the 4 and 6 are shortened versions of 0 and 2, for when rate gats hot and speed is everything. With 3 and 5, I can search and pounce without ever touching the paddle, keeping my right hand free for my non-K1EA dupe sheets and logs.

73, JIM - K8MR

(Thanks, Jim, for your idea of the Practical Contester and for your contribution of material to get this column started. I know we all have ideas and techniques that we utilize in contesting. Why not share them with us in this column. Send them to Ken, WD9INF, 2520 Centennial Rd., Toledo, OH 43617.

CONTEST SCORES . . .

CQ WPX CW

K8AZ (KQ8M)	1531/513	2.155M	
WD8LLD	908/418		
K8DD	387/239	258,598	
WD8IXE	118/92	17,020	10M
NF8R	1210/475	1.42M	M/S + WD8AUB
K8MR	75/74	0	ALL USA!

JUNE VHF QSO PARTY

WD8AUB	56/30	144 MHz	10 Watts
K8MR	56/27	144 MHz	10 Watts

CQ WPX SSB

KP2A (KW8N) 13,185,900 #1 WORLD CLAIMED SCORE!!!

CANADA DAY CONTEST

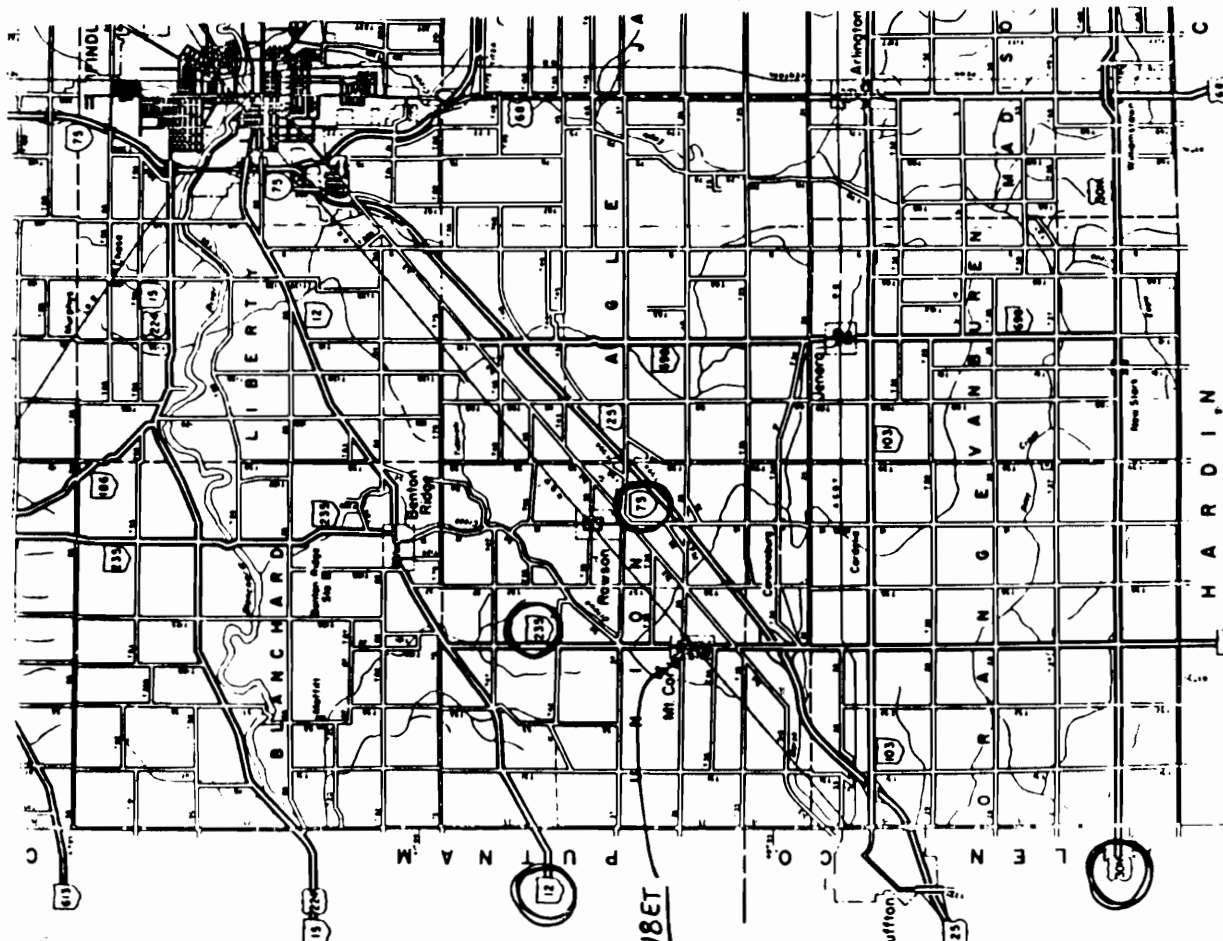
VE2ZP (WD9INF) 710/72 210,000

FIELD DAY

WB8JBM (KW8N)	1B-1opr. (150 watts)	
	CW	SSB
80m	250	243
40m	257	189
20m	171	148
15m	124	56

TOTALS 802 636 1438 Q's 2240 QSO pts.

FINAL SCORE (w/bonuses) 4,980



MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

Contest Operating Ethics Survey

Your Call Area/Province/Country (optional): _____

Years of Contest Experience (optional): _____

1. In general, do you think leading contest operators use operating ethics similar to those of the "small guns"?

YES _____ NO _____

2. XU1SS calls you in the last 10 minutes of the CQ WW Contest for a double multiplier. You give him his report and he doesn't reply. Would you log him anyway?

YES _____ NO _____

3. 4U1ITU is running Europe on 7045. Would you say to him "Listen for Stateside" on his transmit frequency?

YES _____ NO _____

4. You have been on 14276 for 3 minutes and someone comes on your frequency and says, "You are QRMing the Chernopyl Family Hour Net ... Please QSY!" Would you:

- a) QSY from the frequency
- b) Zerobeat the net
- c) Tell the guy to move in a less than friendly manner (hi)

5. You have just finished duping your log and find that you are 1,109 points below a new category record. Would you add a few QSOs into the log to increase your score past the old record?

YES _____ NO _____

6. You have been calling BY4AA for 10 minutes and can't work him. Would you "push the upper button" on the amplifier just this one time?

YES _____ NO _____

7. You have just discovered 9M8ZZ on 14133. Would you work him assuming no one will notice you that far out of the band?

YES _____ NO _____

8. WB7XYZ, in Wyoming, just called you for a "clean sweep" in the ARRL SS contest with only 4 minutes to go. Unfortunately, you copied everything but his check. Would you write in something in your log to keep the QSO?

YES _____ NO _____

9. Would you knowingly take over someone else's frequency (e.g., a weak backscatter signal on the band edge that has a slower rate than you could generate)?

YES _____ NO _____

10. Have you ever used packet radio spotting and still claimed single operator?

YES _____ NO _____

11. You are tuning the bands and hear your friend running Europeans. Would you stop and ask him, "Hey, Joe, are there any good multipliers on the band?" or "What frequency is he on?"

YES _____ NO _____

12. Would you allow a friend to hold your frequency while you run up the band to chase a new multiplier?

YES _____ NO _____

13. You just passed 9Q5XX to 20 meters for a new multiplier. All you hear are a few mumbles that sound like him. Would you log him?

YES _____ NO _____

14. You are in the process of analyzing your Multi-Single log for 10-minute rule violations and find one that results in a lost multiplier. Would you change the time in your log to allow the contact to count?

YES _____ NO _____

15. Have you written in a few calls in your log during a big run, assuming that no one will be able to find them?

YES _____ NO _____

16. HA1XYZ just calls you on 20 meters for the fifth time. Would you change his call into a valid QSO out of frustration?

YES _____ NO _____

17. 5Z4XX works someone with a very similar callsign to yours. Just as you figure out what he is doing, he moves on to the next call area. Would you log him?

YES _____ NO _____

18. Would you look at a friend's log after the contest to find callsigns or other log information that you can correct in your own log after the contest?

YES _____ NO _____

19. Have you ever changed a callsign in your log to cover a duplicate contact?

YES _____ NO _____

20. Have you ever changed the time in your log to extend your operating time limit?

YES _____ NO _____

Comments: _____

(use additional sheet if necessary)

Deadline: October 1, 1989

Return survey to: CQ Magazine
Contest Column Survey
76 North Broadway
Hicksville, NY 11801