



FLASH



MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

AUGUST 1990

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THIS ISSUE

Well, summer is drawing to an end and everyone should be finished or nearly so with those new antennas for the season. You'll find in this issue the questions and answers that you wish you had asked/thought of BEFORE you built those antennas. After all, what else would you expect? KBMR tells us how we could have gotten that long boom antenna home in one piece and from the FRC guys comes a three-parter on antennas that is pretty good at providing a good bibliography of references for all those things we were wondering about before the antennas went up. The PRESENTATION ON ANTENNAS by Joe Reisert, W1JR is very interesting reading and refers to many articles for further reading and reference on the topics discussed.

Scores for the IARU are given and it looks like Mad River made a nice showing in the contest. Plan on attending the Findlay Meeting and NBET's. The FISH will fill you in and give you the scope on a chance to gather those needs for computer contesting this year.

DXING AKA MAD RIVER

708AA came on this past month and near as I can tell EVERYONE in Mad River scored them. In one evenings run I heard WBUA, AC8W, NBCXX and NE8T get themselves into the log. From down our way in the "bottom" of Mad River, WD9INF, KABPOW, WEBZ and myself all got into the log. I mention this DXing because I think it goes nicely with the comments the FISH makes regarding the place of Mad River. Mad River isn't just for contesting anymore. Read Dave's article and I think you'll agree that along with contesting Mad River is much more! GO MAD RIVER!

PACKET CLUSTER

The cluster system seems to be coming along and steadily improving for the contest season. During the IARU the system was alive with spots and everything worked quite well.

Those nodes serving the Mad River gang include: KBNLD, KBCC, KBDD (most of the time), WIBL, KD8B, and KBBS. Perhaps before November all the links and kinks can be corrected. With the large number of DXers out there it would seem to me that we could gain some mighty fine members for Mad River. Why not talk to some of these DXers and see if they're interested?

FROM THE 'BIG FISH'

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

FIELD DAY 1990

I can hardly believe it...after a layoff of five years, I actually enjoyed Field Day. After successfully kicking the habit back in 1985 while building my house, the opportunity to trek up into Northern Michigan with MRRC'ers KN8S and KE8OC sounded like a good excuse to get away, kick back and work a little radio.

Operating from 250 miles north of Detroit meant that we gave up a big part of the 500 mile high-angle-path circle that is so crucial to domestic contesting from W8 (we could barely hear W4 in the daytime!). Our final total (1150 QSOs) didn't set any records, but to quote KE8OC, "that was not the point". The TS940, zepp and laptop computer worked perfectly for 24 straight hours (even the generator!). By operating two hour shifts, everybody got a chance to operate and yet have adequate relaxation. It was one of the better Field Days I have ever been on.

Several years ago, MRRC had a "1A Field Day Challenge" where we fielded a half-dozen entries in 1A. In that context, our recent KN8S 1A score would not have fared very well. I wonder whether this challenge, which was dominated for two years by one well-operated, but also well-located team, soured some of the club on Field Day. This year we had significant MRRC participation in several Field Day efforts. Hopefully, this trend will continue, for FD is an excellent opportunity for recruiting and training.

MRRC - NOT JUST FOR CONTESTING ANYMORE

MRRC is first and forever a contest club. Contesting is our reason for existence, but do you do have to be a died-in-the-wool contest fanatic to be a part of MRRC? There are many other competitive pursuits in amateur radio which parallel contesting - DXing for example. Hams involved in these other activities often enjoy and benefit from an association with the MRRC.

I was reminded of this the other day after a phone call from "Doc" Sheller, KN8Z. Ten or fifteen years ago, Doc had one of the major multi-multi stations in the country, and was very active in contesting. After a few years of inactivity, Doc got back on the air - primarily involved in DXing.

Doc has been a MRRC member for a long time, and is a good example of a club member whose interests have changed with time. He no longer has the time to engage in serious contest efforts, yet he continues to support our club. We benefit from his support, and he benefits from our camaraderie and radio experiences.

It will be my goal to lead MRRC such that not only the serious contesters, but also people such as Doc, will participate and enjoy our club. As MRRC'ers are involved with local DX PacketClusters and clubs, this is a natural association. DX clubs exist to support DXing, and MRRC exists to support contesting. The two are not mutually exclusive.

It is interesting to look at some of the other clubs that we "compete" against. The Yankee Clipper Contest Club is primarily a contest club, while the Frankford Radio Club and Potomac Valley Radio Club have large memberships with active involvement in many other areas of ham radio. They are able to consistently score well in the club competitions and deployment of DXpeditions. The non-exclusive focus of their efforts helps to attract and maintain their membership. This membership in turn, supports the efforts of their contest "die-hards".

It is not likely that MRRC will ever reach the size and stature of a FRC or PVRC, but we can still emulate their approach. MRRC is not just for contesters anymore. If you are an active ham, and enjoy the competitive aspects of amateur radio, there is a place for you in the Mad River Radio Club.

73, Dave, K8CC

THE "OTHER" DAYTON

There is another "convention" held in Dayton which might be of interest to the MRRRC membership. Besides our favorite Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena will host Computerfest '90, sponsored by the Dayton Microcomputer Association. This year's event will be held August 25-26, 1990, running from 10 AM until 6 PM, with hourly door prizes and two PC/AT computers as grand prizes.

The show appears to draw 4000 to 5000 people and is held entirely inside the Hara Arena complex. While this show cannot compare to the Hamvention for attendance, it IS nice to be able to park on the asphalt. There are numerous dealers for new computer gear with a wide variety of machines for sale. The flea market is a blast - an outstanding place to find parts to piece together a computer for the shack. (Last year I saw XT cases for \$10, keyboards for \$5, and hard drives under \$50!) The flea market is also a good place to pick up connectors, high current power supplies and other useful stuff for the station.

K8CC and WB8VMN have made the show the past two years - this year, we are heading down for Saturday, and may have some other Michigan MRRRC guys in tow. There has been some discussion about dropping by the nearby W8FN QTH for some impromptu MRRRC fellowship after the show. Plans are up in the air at this point - if you are interested, check the MRRRC Monday Night Net for the latest scoop.

FINDLAY MRRRC MEETING

The next official meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be held during the Findlay, OH Hamfest, on Sunday, September 9, 1990 at 12:00 PM. N8ET reports that a large tent is available for this year's meeting - a big improvement over the livestock barn of past years! The Findlay Hamfest usually has a good turnout, and it's a good chance for MRRRC members to make a meeting for Club Competition eligibility.

Also part of the Findlay activities will be the annual N8ET pre-Findlay picnic on Saturday evening, September 8, 1990, beginning around 5:00 PM. Cuisine will be the usual N8ET burgers & hotdogs picnic fare. If you plan on attending, please let K8CC know ahead of time so that we can help Bill plan for the food. Limited floor space for Saturday night is available at N8ET, or you may be able to scare up a motel room in town (plan ahead due to the organized bicycle activities that same weekend). The N8ET picnic is another MRRRC event that always is a good time, and is typical of the camaraderie that exemplifies our club.

Also, since this is the same evening as the September CW Sprint, we will again be fielding the "MAD RIVER PICNIC CLUB" Sprint team. We will set up two stations in N8ET's shack, and all interested operators can take turns operating the rigs with their own calls to be submitted as a team score. Contact K8MR to get your name on the list so that we can pre-register the "MRPC" team entry. K8CC will bring a laptop computer w/NA software plus his ICOM 765 for people to try out.

MRRRC MONDAY NIGHT NET

Just a reminder of the MRRRC Monday Night Net, held every Monday evening at 8:30 PM Eastern Time around 3825 KHz. Recent check-ins have been the usual bunch of guys - we want to hear from the rest of you! Make it a point to drop by around 8:30 as we try to get any MRRRC business done first, before we diverge into other topics. (I promise that we will not dominate the frequency with discussions of K8CC's PacketCluster problems!) If you are just monitoring, dump your call in anyways so that we know you are there. We hope to see you on Monday Night!

Hauling a 24 Foot Mast - On a Subcompact

In my recent antenna project, I decided to upgrade to a 24 foot, 2" X 1/4" aluminum mast. I purchased this from a local metal supply house, but had to contend with hauling it home. Initially I planned to stick it on the roof of my wife's minivan, but as planning progressed I found a good way to haul it on the car I normally drive, a Ford Escort.

The key is to balance the weight on rooftop carriers (an old ski rack in my case) and to also support it from both bumpers. In the front I made a vertical support from a piece of 1 1/2" aluminum tubing. The base for this was a piece of 2x4 with a hole cut with a hole saw at angle to the wood such that the tubing was vertical when the base was flat against the bumper. A longer piece of 1x4, without hole, was nailed to the bottom of the 2x4 and provided the place for a rope tying it to the bumper. A few round notches were filed in the edges to provide channels for the rope to pass over without sliding horizontally. Finally a wood screw was inserted through the side of the 2x4 to act as a set screw on the tube. A simple 4 U-bolt boom to mast clamp attached the mast to the vertical tubing.

The same could have been done for the rear bumper, but I had a bike rack to which I attached an extra foot of stamped steel angle stock, and used a single U-bolt to hold the mast.

With red rags taped on both ends, off I went. It's important to keep in mind that the car is now ten feet longer, especially when approaching intersections. I don't recommend high speed hairpin turns, but the whole thing seemed stable at freeway speeds.

Note that I was hauling aluminum, which weighed about 40 pounds. If you're thinking about hauling heavier mast, i.e. steel, consider what the roof of your car can support without adding a permanent dent. And if anyone wonders - one guy asked me what that was, a mast for a sailboat?

de K8MR





IARU HF

Here are the scores turned into K8MR as of this date:

Multi single	NBCXX	1411/131	713,000	NBCXX KBJM NEBT
	WBLT	1009/120		W8VMF KE8DC
	WD9INF	922/123	400,980	KUBE NZ4K WD9INF W8IQ W8ZAA K88HAE (age 13!)
CW	KBCC	1290/142	647,000	
	WBCAR	225/75	63,375	
	WBFN	375/46	61,900	
Phone	KBDD	420/82	125,000	
Mixed	WDBLLD	1175/125		W8BAUB, op
	K8AQM	674/115	280,600	
	K8MR	499/93	161,913	

There may be more scores unknown to us at this time. Please submit all your scores to K8MR. NZ4K now has his first scores to tally for the club competition.

WRTC

K8MR	367/168	594,720
KBCC	408/149	229,000
KBDD	??/?	??,???