

# FLASH



## MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

OCTOBER 1990

EDITOR: TED, K8AQM

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### THIS ISSUE

Gadzooks, so much stuff, so little room! Lots of contest info, data, and scores highlights this issue. Be sure to read the words of the "BIG FISH" and get set for the CQ WW and SS.

Seems like everybody is tooled up and geared up for this World Wide. W8IQ, WD9INF and W8UPH will make some noise from the northwest Ohio area. INF will be MS doing some contest training of potential new members while IQ and UPH will be SO. From Adrian N8JMN will assemble a MRCC crew and begin his very first CQWW as a MM here at AQM...what a way to jump in! CC will go strong with a great crew for the MM score and no doubt CXX will capture a SO/single band. Whatever the station, whoever the operator(s) there just isn't anymore fun to be had than in the CQ WW SSB! Let's go Mad River! Lest I forget, that goes for the SS's and the CQ WW CW too. Hang in there MR, K8BN, LLD; the northern branch of Mad River is about to really be heard!

### MORE NODES...K8AQM!

Packetcluster is about to have a new node along the Ohio-Michigan borders. K8AQM will be up and running as of the first weekend after WW. The software is here and all the hardware is here so I'll be joining the system on 144.97 November 4. No time before WW to get things set.

### NEEDED, OHIO NEWS!

I would like to point out that I live in Michigan. I don't try to leave-out the news and happenings down the Ohio way but I just don't have the access to the gossip and happenings from down in Ohio. Would anyone like to become a "reporter" from down there? It would improve the paper if we could add some news from south of Toledo. K8MR does a great job from the east but no southern news! HELP..please.

### MONDAY NIGHT NET

How about joining the Monday night crew? Seems to me that it's always the same guys and it would be nice to hear some of the others joining us on Mondays. Maybe we could get some more news for the paper...3825 MHZ, 8:30 local, BE THERE!

### FLASH!!!!

VE2ZF will be on from Zone 2..all bands CQ WW SSB!

>>>> Mad River Radio Club Roster - October 1990

| Name   | Street                                       | City                     | State         | Zip         | Phone          |
|--------|--|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| KBCV   | Amos, Walt                                   | 4612 Woodland            | Royal Oak     | MI 48073    |                |
| ACBW   | Arnet, Stan                                  | 801 Range Road           | Port Huron    | MI 48060    | (313)364-6674  |
| WABYVR | Barkey, Pat                                  | 559 Heatherbrook         | Westerville   | OH 43081    |                |
| NZ80   | Bennett, Dick                                | 275 Forward Pass         | Pataskala     | OH 43062    |                |
| WABRRR | Bernard, Rick                                | 38911 Lapham             | Livonia       | MI 48154    | (313)591-7649  |
| WEBZ   | Boydston, Denny                              | 2383 East Clearview      | Adrian        | MI 49221    |                |
| NBJMN  | Brooks, Kevin                                | 11639 Teachout Road      | Onsted        | MI 49265    | (517)467-7695  |
| NBADM  | Bruening, Mike                               | 9492 Grossman Rd.        | Manchester    | MI 48158    |                |
| KU8E   | Clarke, Jeff                                 | 7382 Bridewater Blvd.    | Worthington   | OH 43235    | (614)764-4621  |
| NZ4K   | Collins, Pat                                 | 815 N. High Street # 17  | Columbus      | OH 43215    | (614)291-6927  |
| WBFN   | Farmer, Randy                                | 8115 S. Palmer Rd.       | New Carlisle  | OH 45344    | (513)845-3331  |
| K3WW   | Frankfort Radio Club                         | 1326 N. 5th Street       | Perkasie      | PA 18944    |                |
| KBBECG | Gafner, Dave                                 | 1949 W. Michigan 11      | Clinton       | MI 49236    |                |
| WBUPH  | Gensler, Robert                              | 820 Circleview Dr.       | Toledo        | OH 43615    | (419)385-8082  |
| VE2ZP  | Goodwin, David                               | 15 Promenade Oval        | Aylmer        | QUE J9H 1T9 |                |
| KABPOW | Hannemann, Chuck                             | 4123 Seneca Hwy          | Clayton       | MI 49235    | (517) 445-2570 |
| KW8N   | Hayes, Bob                                   | 9192 Bender Road         | N. Ridgeville | OH 44039    | (216)327-4710  |
| NBEA   | Holstein, Joe                                | 1515 Sashabaw            | Ortonville    | MI 48462    | (313)628-7455  |
| NBET   | Kelsey, Bill                                 | 3521 Springlake Drive    | Findlay       | OH 45840    | (419)          |
| K8DD   | Kohl, Hank                                   | 1640 Henry               | Port Huron    | MI 48060    | (313)982-7088  |
| WBCAR  | Kovatch, Dan                                 | 2256 Pipe Street         | Sandusky      | OH 44870    | (419)625-4666  |
| KBBAIZ | Linder, Larry                                | 2001 Ida Maybee          | Monroe        | MI 48161    |                |
| WBIG   | Meyers, Kurt                                 | 2376 Dana Street         | Toledo        | OH 43609    | (419) 385-6437 |
| NBDM   | Michaelis, Pete <b>MARY</b>                  | 11725 Point Overlook Pl. | Strongsville  | OH 44136    | (216)238-3695  |
| NBATR  | Michaelis, Mary <b>PETE</b>                  | 11725 Point Overlook Pl. | Strongsville  | OH 44136    | (216)238-3695  |
| WIBL   | Miller, <del>Steve</del> <b>JOHN</b>         | 220 Freyn Dr.            | Centerville   | OH 45458    | (513)433-8090  |
| WDBIXE | <del>Miller, Steve</del> <b>STEVE Miller</b> | 1206 Rosewood            | Ferndale      | MI 48220    |                |
| KBJM   | <del>Miller, John</del> <b>Millett</b>       | 16831 Stephens           | E. Detroit    | MI 48021    | 313-773-6943   |
| WDBIJP | Mitchell, Tim                                | 7325 Nightengale #2      | Holland       | OH 43528    | 419-867-3531   |
| KEBDC  | O'Sullivan, Tim                              | 744 Foothill             | Canton        | MI 48188    | (313)397-9732  |
| WABVMS | Polom, Mike                                  | 20905 Andover            | Southfield    | MI 48076    | (313)352-3018  |
| K8CC   | Pruett, Dave                                 | 2727 Harris Rd.          | Ypsilanti     | MI 48198    | (313)481-0755  |
| WBBVMN | Pruett, Tom                                  | 521 Larchmont            | Westland      | MI 48185    |                |
| WR8D   | Pugh, Rick                                   | 510 Marie                | Westland      | MI 48185    | (313)595-8936  |
| KBAQM  | Rachwal, Ted                                 | 1600 Wolf Creek Hwy      | Adrian        | MI 49221    | (517)263-4066  |
| WD9INF | Rogner, Ken                                  | 2520 Centennial Road     | Toledo        | OH 43617    | (419)841-8781  |
| AD8C   | Ryno, Jay                                    | 10363 Grove Road         | Bluffton      | OH 45817    | (419)358-1188  |
| N8CEO  | Schietecatte, Maurice                        | 5677 Mason Road W        | Fowlerville   | MI 48836    | 517-548-1359   |
| K3LA   | Scholl, Barney                               | P.O. Box 673             | Sharon        | PA 16146    |                |
| W8UA   | Socha, Mike                                  | 3757 Brighton Road       | Howell        | MI 48843    | (517)546-9269  |
| K8MR   | Stahl, Jim                                   | 30499 Jackson Road       | Chagrin Falls | OH 44022    | (216)831-6954  |
| WDBLLD | Steingass, Goose                             | 1690 N. Honeytown Road   | Wooster       | OH 44691    | (216)262-6866  |
| KNBS   | Sullivan, John                               | 1731 Walnut Ridge Circle | Canton        | MI 48187    | (313)981-2641  |
| N8CQA  | Switzer, Buck                                | 654 Georgia              | Marysville    | MI 48040    | (313)364-9640  |
| N8CXX  | Tyaensky, John                               | 12333 Sandy Bottom Dr.   | South Lyon    | MI 48178    | (313)437-7147  |
| WU2B   | Warden, Joe                                  | 2952 Abbot's Cove Blvd.  | Columbus      | OH 43204    | 614-351-0351   |

Sorry about name mess; one of these days I'll master this computer program! Any updates of phone numbers and address info goes to WD9INF

## ARRL DX CONTEST COMPARISON BETWEEN KW8N, K8CC & N8CXX

The 1990 ARRL DX contest had excellent condition on 10 meters. Both Jeff (KU8E) @ KW8N and myself operated single band 10. We both had done well. I wanted to do a comparison between our two stations and Dave, K8CC, who operated M/M and did well.

The graph shows the hourly rates of each of the stations. The bottom of the graph describes each of the stations antenna systems. The radios and amplifiers were very similar and would not propose an advantage to anyone. The experience level between the 3 stations is close. Both Jeff and Brian (W8WD, K8CC 10 meter op.) are experienced hired guns. My experience is from operating my own station. We are all knowledgeable of the stations that we are operating from, so I do not believe that there is any advantage in operator to station talent.

The only advantage would be for Dave. The access to Packetcluster@ and the ability to pass mults were not available to Jeff or myself. Also, Dave could rotate his operators. As for the stations, the biggest difference would be in the antennas.

I assumed for the comparison, that all would open the band on the highest antenna. Through out the day, the best antenna that worked was selected and the tallest antenna was used to close the band. Lets begin.

### First Night

Jeff jumped right out with an 80 hour. Both Dave and I stumbled at first. We started to improve in the 2nd hour as Jeff was slowing down. The first night left both Dave and I, 50+ qso's behind Jeff. When you look at the time worked, I was off the band first. My top 5 element is lower than Dave's & Jeff's. They worked 10 minutes longer than I.

By the end of the first night, Jeff was at 155/20, I was at 103/15 and Dave was at 61/13.

### Saturday Morning

Both Jeff and Dave started to work stations earlier than I. They could work stations that I could not hear. The time/qso breakdown had them on the band 15 to 20 minutes before me. That is the advantage of the higher beams.

The start of the 12th hour found Jeff and I running stations as fast as we could. Infact that was the best hour for either of us. The next 3 hours saw Dave's hourly rate improve while Jeff's and mine declined. The 15th hour started with both Dave and mine dropping in rate. I assumed that we were S&Ping while Jeff could run rate. I also took a break for a couple of minutes.

In the 17th hour, both Jeff and Dave found a opening that I missed. They both generated 20+ qso more than I did. Jeff maintained that rate while Dave and I plunged towards the basement. Dave bottomed out in the 20th hour. I bottomed out there too, but could not pick up until the 22nd hour. Jeff did not bottom out until the 21st hour.

During the 21st hour, Jeff and I ran across each other and compared scores. Jeff was at 746/107 and I was at 658/105. We both had heard Dave, but we had no idea what his numbers were. After a few words, I got up to eat a light meal. During dinner I made the decision that Jeff would not beat me. I would literally screw myself to the chair in front of the radio. I would now take this contest seriously!

The 22nd hour found all of us starting to work stations. These were mostly SA & VK/ZL (from my logs). A little dip in the 23rd hour, but by then the Japanese area was starting to open up. The 0000 - 02 hour was the length of the JA run. By 0255, I was off the air. The band had closed for me. Jeff and Dave were still working stations for an additional 15 minutes. The advantage of higher beams.

At end of the second night, Jeff was at 918/111, I was at 922/112 and Dave was at 739/104. I had caught Jeff. I just didn't know it.

#### Sunday Morning

We all started about the same time, late in the 11th hour. Jeff had only a couple more Q's than Dave or I. The 12th hour was again the start of the European run. That was my best hour for Sunday. Both Jeff and Dave peaked in the 13th hour.

Jeff and I switched rates of decline on Sunday. You will see that Jeff on Saturday had a controlled descent and mine was quick. Sunday was the opposite. Yet the minutes/-qso-per-hour rate sheet showed that neither one of us took a break until the 16th hour. That was me, Jeff did not move until the 17th hour. One reason for this was that condition were better Sunday. Dave and I were struggling on Saturday around the 17th-19th hour. On Sunday, we were doing much better. I improved by 75 Q's and Dave did 30 Q's better in the same time frame.

Fred, NE8T, was in Florida on vacation and called in to say Hi. After a few words, I got right back into the contest. After Fred returned home, he commented that I did not vary my "CQing" frequency for 9 hours. He could always find me between 28.535 to .537. If you can make it work, why move?

Jeff bottomed out in the 20th hour, while Dave and I hung on until the 21th. The JA run started earlier, about 2145Z. The Friday night frenzy that Jeff experienced started to happen to me. I stayed on 1 frequency until the end. Neither Jeff or Dave could get anything working those last 2 hours. I guess it might have been a choice of rate or S&P. I choose rate and got 4 mults. Dave choose S&P and worked 4 mults also. Jeff stated that he just could not make "CQing" work.

#### Results

I will present the totals of various categories.

|       | 1st day Q's/M's | 2nd day Q's/M's | Total    | 1st day hours | 2nd day hours | Total |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| N8CXX | 733/107         | 873/24          | 1606/131 | 13.7          | 13.7          | 27.4  |
| KW8N  | 786/108         | 716/17          | 1502/125 | 14.1          | 13.8          | 27.8  |
| K8CC  | 627/98          | 597/24          | 1224/122 |               |               |       |

#### Summary

If your looking for an analytical summation, forget it! First day propagation favored the higher system of Jeff's. Sunday's propagation favored my medium position system. All in all, I feel operator intensity made the difference. Besides, I HAD FUN!!!

  
N8CXX

SS TIPS FOR 'LITTLE GUNS'  
Compiled by K8ND and K8CC

Set a QSO target that you feel is slightly out of reach. If you exceed that goal, set another 20% higher.

Call CQ as often as possible. If you can hold a frequency, this is the most effective way to add QSOs, but don't forget to look for section multipliers.

Keep an accurate record of sections worked. If your station cannot run huge QSO totals, concentrate on working all sections and as many Q's as possible.

Pre-number all log forms - adding QSO numbers to the logs while operating wastes time and effort.

Log in pencil. Mechanical pencils are useful, particularly the Pentel type. You don't sharpen them - the lead advances by pressing on the eraser.

Keep close track of your off times. K8MR suggests using a 3x5 index card as a cumulative record while operating to better manage your six hours off time.

Try not to take any off time until at least 08z the first night, since the activity is highest during the first twelve hours. Schedule sleep during 10z to 14z, which are the least productive hours of the contest.

When multi-op, try to keep a operator on a spotting receiver CONSTANTLY. Use it to scan the bands not being used by the "run" station for missing sections. Don't miss the VE8's on 10m!

Have your full exchange (ex: B K8ND 71 OH) in prominent view of the operator, particularly at multi-op stations with guest operators. As fatigue sets in, it gets easy to "blank out and forget the exchange, even at your own station.

If you are not used to phone contests, be careful not to strain your voice. It's usually not necessary to scream into the microphone, although that is the temptation. Conserve your voice, have throat lozenges/spray available, and take steps immediately if you feel your voice slipping away.

All extraneous greetings and words should be left out of the contest exchange, with one exception: use of the word "check" before the check reduces the number of requests for repeats. (Another exception is when working another MRRRC member - your exchange should conclude with the cry 'GOOOOO MAD RIVER !!!' - ed.)

Headphones are a must for contest operation, and since you will have them on for hours at a time, find a set that treats you kindly. Select headphones that cup your ear, but do not sit on it. Some cheap stereo headphones, modified for mono, are perfect.

Minimizing physical actions and wasted time are keys to a good score. When logging, there is no reason to log all four digits of the time. One system logs the full four digits only once per hour and the last two digits for all other QSOs during that hour. Another variation logs four digits once per hour, two digits only once per ten minute period, and the last digit every QSO. When things REALLY get hot, record the time only once each five minutes.

If you think you can get through SS without a dupe sheet, YOU ARE WRONG! A dupe sheet is a time saving device that pays off every time you avoid working a station twice. Anyone who works a station more than twice quickly gains a bad reputation. Make sure that every station you work is placed on the dupe sheet. When calling CQ and maintaining a good rate, temporarily abandon the dupe sheet - the increased rate will make up for the occasional dupe. Catch up the dupe sheet when the rate drops, or during off times. Single sided dupe sheets are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Have your station, logs, pencils - EVERYTHING - ready to go early on Saturday. Relax and try to stay loose. At least 30 minutes before the start, listen on the bands to get a feel for activity and chose one to start on. When the contest begins, you should have already staked out a frequency for CQing or found a CQing station to QSO.

**SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR MICHIGAN  
thru 1989**

| <u>CW Single Operator - High Power</u>  |                 | <u>CW Single Operator - Low Power</u>  |                 | <u>CW Multi-Operator</u>  |                 |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 83 W8YVR                                | 159,100-1075-74 | 74 W8CQN                               | 137,492- 929-74 | 87 K8AQM                  | 162,504 1098-74 |
| 88 K8CC                                 | 156,436-1057-74 | 76 W8CQN                               | 131,254- 899-73 | 77 W8UM                   | 125,720- 890-70 |
| 78 K8LX                                 | 153,150-1021-75 | 75 W8CQN                               | 116,060- 829-70 | 86 K8AQM                  | 120,960- 840-72 |
| 83 K8CC                                 | 152,144-1028-74 | 77 K8IF                                | 113,734- 779-73 | 80 W8UM                   | 110,016- 764-72 |
| 86 K8CC                                 | 151,848-1026-74 | 81 N8EA                                | 103,660- 730-71 | 79 W8UM                   | 105,376- 712-74 |
| 77 K8LX (W8ZDT)                         | 151,694-1039-73 | 89 KJ8A                                | 102,564- 693-74 | 84 K8JRK                  | 102,200- 700-73 |
| 81 K8CC                                 | 150,480-1045-72 | 76 W8ZAV                               | 102,528- 712-72 | 83 K8AQM                  | 100,196- 677-74 |
| 79 W8UA (W8ZDT)                         | 147,852- 999-74 | 78 W8MAM                               | 102,120- 690-74 | 74 W88FUO                 | 97,056- 674-72  |
| 81 K8LX                                 | 147,852- 999-74 | 79 W8MAM                               | 101,616- 696-73 | 88 NE8O                   | 94,544- 622-76  |
| 84 K8CC                                 | 146,964- 993-73 | 78 W8LAQ                               | 101,388- 714-71 | 75 W8UM                   | 91,254- 681-67  |
|   |                 |  |                 |                           |                 |
| <u>SSB Single Operator - High Power</u> |                 | <u>SSB Single Operator - Low Power</u> |                 | <u>SSB Multi-Operator</u> |                 |
| 78 K8LX (W8ZDT)                         | 223,200-1488-75 | 83 W8BMGQ                              | 154,364-1043-74 | 87 K8CC                   | 214,500-1430-75 |
| 81 K8LX (W8ZDT)                         | 222,592-1504-74 | 85 W8BMGQ                              | 151,548-1038-73 | 87 N8CXX                  | 205,050-1367-75 |
| 79 K8LX (W8ZDT)                         | 212,528-1436-74 | 88 W8BMGQ                              | 148,808- 979-76 | 87 K8MJZ                  | 204,150-1361-75 |
| 74 W8YVR                                | 204,092-1379-74 | 84 W8BMGQ                              | 125,060- 845-74 | 83 W88CRY                 | 192,992-1304-74 |
| 88 AI8D                                 | 188,480-1240-76 | 89 NE8O (K8J8K)                        | 119,928- 789-76 | 81 K8SS                   | 182,208-1248-73 |
| 72 W8ZDT                                | 187,738-1272-74 | 76 W8TR (W8PSD)                        | 117,718- 829-71 | 86 W8SH                   | 179,672-1214-74 |
| 73 K9OK/8 (W89DZS)                      | 186,000-1240-75 | 82 W8BMGQ                              | 116,476- 787-74 | 82 W88CRY                 | 179,376-1212-74 |
| 89 K8BTI (N8AON)                        | 185,878-1207-77 | 78 W8LAQ                               | 113,442- 777-73 | 85 W8SH                   | 176,860-1195-74 |
| 78 W8FF                                 | 182,850-1215-75 | 80 W8JWN                               | 107,448- 726-74 | 80 W88CRY                 | 173,308-1171-74 |
| 77 W8RC                                 | 174,900-1166-75 | 76 W8WWM                               | 106,642- 751-71 | 81 W88CRY                 | 158,264-1084-73 |

**SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR OHIO  
thru 1989**

| <u>CW Single Operator - High Power</u>  |                 | <u>CW Single Operator - Low Power</u>  |                 | <u>CW Multi-Operator</u>  |                 |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 78 K8NZ                                 | 161,320-1090-74 | 89 K8BL                                | 136,192- 896-76 | 83 W88JBM                 | 161,616-1092-74 |
| 78 K8MR                                 | 158,508-1071-74 | 88 K8BL                                | 130,720- 860-76 | 82 W88JBM                 | 154,944-1076-72 |
| 81 K8NZ                                 | 157,916-1067-74 | 87 K8ND                                | 117,822- 807-73 | 81 W88JBM                 | 154,322-1057-73 |
| 88 K8BN (W88IXE)                        | 156,712-1031-76 | 79 K8EKG                               | 116,800- 800-73 | 84 W88JBM                 | 150,088-1028-73 |
| 78 W8WPC (K8BPX)                        | 156,584-1058-74 | 82 K8BL                                | 110,016- 764-72 | 74 W88JBM                 | 147,022-1007-73 |
| 87 W88IXE                               | 156,288-1056-74 | 82 K8BE                                | 109,872- 763-72 | 79 K8ND                   | 142,080- 960-74 |
| 87 K8AZ (K8NZ)                          | 155,400-1050-74 | 83 K8BE                                | 109,520- 740-74 | 81 K8ND                   | 141,044- 953-74 |
| 77 K8MR                                 | 154,216-1041-74 | 78 K8EKG                               | 108,216- 752-72 | 78 W88JBM                 | 138,380- 935-74 |
| 80 K8NZ                                 | 152,884-1037-74 | 85 K8BE                                | 107,596- 727-74 | 80 W88JBM                 | 137,232- 953-72 |
| 77 W88YWX (K3LR)                        | 151,552-1024-74 | 85 K8BM                                | 103,392- 718-72 | 86 W8LT                   | 135,716- 917-74 |
|   |                 |  |                 |                           |                 |
| <u>SSB Single Operator - High Power</u> |                 | <u>SSB Single Operator - Low Power</u> |                 | <u>SSB Multi-Operator</u> |                 |
| 78 W8KIC (W88MZZ)                       | 219,450-1463-75 | 89 K8BL                                | 142,142- 923-77 | 89 K8BN                   | 260,106-1689-77 |
| 81 K8ND (W88MZZ)                        | 217,412-1469-74 | 81 K8EE                                | 118,114- 809-73 | 85 W88JBM                 | 255,744-1728-74 |
| 76 W88PLZ (W88AYC)                      | 213,014-1459-73 | 82 K8EE                                | 113,150- 775-73 | 87 W89INF                 | 245,100-1634-75 |
| 77 W8KIC (W88MZZ)                       | 208,800-1392-75 | 86 K8BM                                | 108,624- 744-73 | 83 W88JBM                 | 229,252-1549-74 |
| 78 K8AZ                                 | 207,150-1380-75 | 87 K8BL                                | 104,390- 715-73 | 86 W88JBM                 | 228,068-1541-74 |
| 78 K8MR                                 | 205,350-1369-75 | 80 W86EZV/8                            | 104,340- 705-74 | 89 W89INF                 | 207,480-1365-76 |
| 81 K8MN                                 | 204,832-1384-74 | 83 K88JH                               | 100,010- 685-73 | 82 W88JBM                 | 205,128-1386-74 |
| 79 W88MZZ                               | 202,464-1368-74 | 80 K88D                                | 98,532- 714-69  | 80 K8ND                   | 202,464-1368-74 |
| 82 K8ND                                 | 199,208-1346-74 | 75 W88MZZ                              | 96,702- 681-71  | 81 W88JBM                 | 202,464-1368-74 |
| 82 W8JI (W88MZZ)                        | 196,988-1331-74 | 78 W88ALG                              | 94,572- 639-74  | 80 W88JBM                 | 201,918-1383-73 |

## FROM THE 'BIG FISH'

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

Ready or not, contest season is just around the corner. Summer antenna work completed, radios tweaked and ready, we are looking forward toward the fall contests and what it will bring MRRRC.

It should be a good contest season. We are now probably just past the sunspot maximum of Cycle 22. During the past solar cycle, we were still making EU QSOs on 28 MHz three, even four years after the sunspot peak. Historically, most solar cycles rise quickly and drop slowly, so there is still potential for lots of good conditions ahead.

Don't make the mistake that K8CC did during the past solar cycle. When I was going to school in Arkansas, K5GO and I were doing all of the DX contests from N5DX during the solar low years of 1976-1978. I moved back to Michigan late in 1979, and didn't operate DX contests again until 1982 from W8UA. I missed the peak of Cycle 21, including the fabulous 1981 CQWW CW where conditions were so good that W8 almost beat the East Coast. Cycle 22 has brought us some phenomenal weekends so far - 1988 WW SSB, 1989 WW CW, 1989 ARRL CW. Now is the time to make QSOs - don't miss out on the fun.

I was proud to see MRRRC sixth in the CQWW club competition, finishing just in front of the North Texas Contest Club and that "other" club from eastern Ohio. This is impressive, considering that CQ has only one, all-encompassing category. In ARRL DX, we were also sixth, this time in the Medium Club category, but we finished well behind the NTCC and NCC. Our total was 6.8M, which doesn't seem bad until you consider that 5.2M of that came from one station - the m/m at K8CC.

Everyone should try to get on for CQWW. Conditions are likely to be good, and even a small station can make a lot of points. Set a goal for yourself - shoot to break a meg for the first time, to beat your previous best score, or try a new category. Remember, satisfaction in contesting comes not from winning, but from setting a goal, and going for it!

We have the potential to make a lot of noise in CQWW. On SSB, I know there will be multis QRV from K8CC and K8AQM, also KW8N and N8ET may be active from the DX end. On CW, multis at K8AQM and W8FN are planned, also K8CC and K8MR will likely be single-ops. Many MRRC members have access to a PacketCluster, which can really help pile up points.

## SWEEPSTAKES

SS is the contest where MRRC has enjoyed its best success - culminating in a Medium Club gavel in 1986. Last year, our SS efforts lagged with a small number of stations turning in scores. We intend to focus our MRRC attention on SS again this year.

Elsewhere in this 'Flash' is a listing of Sweepstakes records for Michigan and Ohio. These are the ten best scores made in each SS category, on both modes, from Michigan and Ohio. I believe that these "section top tens" are interesting goals to shoot for. They are geographically fair, and are indicative of significant effort and skill. If you have achieved one of the ten best scores ever made from your area, that's quite an accomplishment.

As you scan the scores, you will see many MRRC call signs. You will also notice that many of these scores were made some years ago (although three OH records were set in 1989). Back in the early 80's, SS was the premier event on the MRRC calendar, and there were many club "big guns" going all out. Fewer stations have strapped in for the big challenge recently.

These SS records serve two purposes - to recognize the fine efforts we W8s have made in the past, and to give all of us goals to shoot for. With the right conditions, ANY of the #1 scores could fall in 1990. There ARE a few soft spots in the listings, but there are also some mighty big challenges. Pick one that is right for you, your station, and the amount of time you can devote to SS. Then, strap into the operating chair and have at it!

## 'BIG FISH' (continued)

### GETTING READY FOR SS

MRRRC can win SS again! Geographically, the midwest may not be in a position to win the whole thing, but we ARE in a good position to make a lot of points, even with moderate setups. For MRRRC to win SS, we need to get all our stations ready, then get them on the air.

To help prepare for SS, in this 'Flash' we are reprinting "SS Tips for Little Guns", as compiled by K8ND, and updated for 1990 SS. These hints and techniques are useful for ALL SS participants and will help you make a better score.

Also, let's talk about computer logging. Most of us have used K1EA's CT program to operate the DX contests. K8CC enjoyed using CT so much, that he wrote an equivalent program called NA for operating the stateside contests. NA operates much like CT (screens, keystrokes, etc.). NA costs \$30, and is available from:

LTA Industries, Inc.  
P. O. Box 92  
Canfield, OH 44406  
(216) 533-0087

To help encourage MRRRC activity in SS, K8CC is going to offer a special deal. Any MRRRC member who buys NA from LTA, and contributes 200K toward the MRRRC club score (total from both CW and SSB) will receive a \$5 rebate from K8CC on the purchase of the software. (Hmmm... maybe it's not a coincidence that K8CC works for a automobile company.) Note that this deal comes straight from K8CC - don't call LTA about it.

Finally, MRRRC will offer a plaque to the club member who contributes the most points toward the club SS score. Multi-ops will divide the station score by the number of MRRRC operators to determine points contributed. The winner will also have his MRRRC dues paid for the coming year. K8CC will try to get the ARRL Contest Desk to divulge the W8 SS scores in time to award the plaque at the 1991 Dayton Hamvention MRRRC Meeting.

MRRRC really can win SS! It will take ALL of our big contest stations to be QRV - starting with K8CC which will probably be single-op high power on both modes. Members who live in apartments need to seek out stations in need of operators. If everyone contributes, we can win this thing! Hope to see everyone in the 1990 SS.

### FINDLAY 1990

I really enjoyed the MRRRC events at Findlay this year. I went down with a list of things for the station, and came back with nothing. No, it was not the hamfest that made Findlay special, it was the MRRRC people.

Unless you come to the MRRRC gatherings, you don't know what you're missing. This year's N8ET picnic had a good turnout, and we thank Bill and Tina for hosting us on the eve of moving (next year's picnic will be at the new N8ET QTH in urban Findlay). The Sunday MRRRC meeting during the Hamfest was well attended, with many old and new faces.

Welcome back to Tim, WD8IJP, an old MRRRC member who has been away for a while. Welcome also to Joe, N8EA, a long time MI contester who made his first trip to the N8ET picnic. Also seen at the meeting were John, WI8L and some of the guys from the SE MI DX Association - welcome to MRRRC.

The big surprise of Findlay was finding out that former 'Big Fish' Joe Warden, WU2B has moved back to Columbus. Joe was formerly W8LNO, then AA6CV, and was club president in 1986 when we won the SS club gavel. He has been a friend and true-blue MRRRC member for many years. With Jim, KC8MK and the guys at W8LT, I'm sure we'll be seeing renewed activity from the Columbus area.

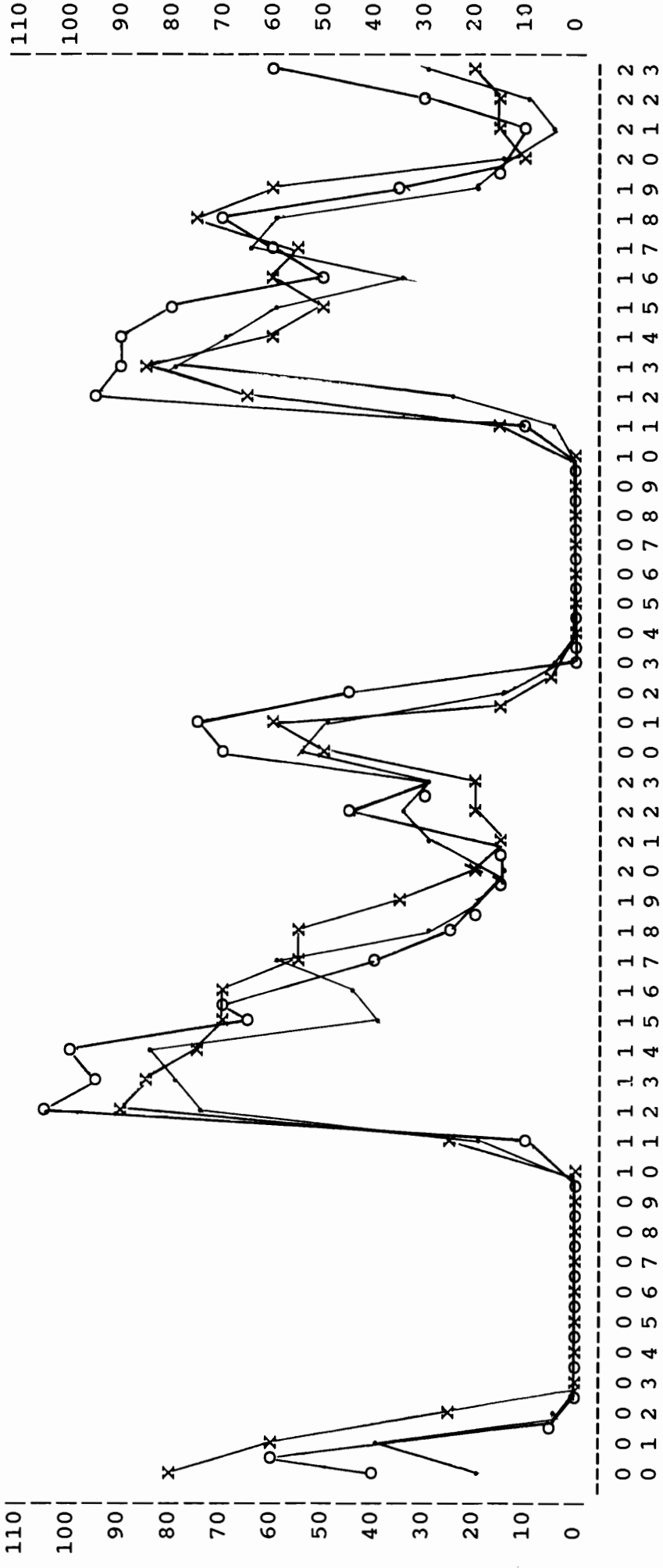
The next MRRRC meeting will be the K8MR Christmas Party on Saturday, January 5, 1991. The K8MR party is always a good time, and worth the drive to suburban Cleveland. Hope to CU there!

73, Dave, K8CC





KW8N vs N8CXX vs K8CC 10 METER COMPARISON



x = KW8N SINGLE OP ANT = 5/5 @ 135'/75' AND 6 EL TRIBANDER @ 65'  
o = N8CXX SINGLE OP ANT = 5/5 @ 106'/72'  
. = K8CC MULTI/MULTI ANT = 4/4 @ 90'/65', 6EL @ 135' AND 4 EL @ 35' FOR SA



left to right, VE2ZP, KBJM, VE3CRG, VE3RMM, VE3RN and KBAQM.



John, VE3RMM currently in the south Pacific DXing.

## VE2 HOLIDAY

In August KBJM and I ran a quick load of hardline up to VE2ZP. VE2ZP, Dave Goodwin, is one of the premiere Canadian contesters and often operates from VE2LJ's place in Zone 2 (CQ NW SSB 89 and 90). Dave works for the government and lives across the river from Ottawa in Alymer, Quebec.

On a rather quick notice I twisted JM's arm to ride along in my Ford Ranger with about 2K feet of 1/2 inch hardline plus our bicycles for the 10 hour trip. Poor John, little did he know what he was getting into; imagine crossing the border with all that hardline in the back of an open pickup and smooth talking our way through customs...piece of cake! We arrived on Thursday about 6:00 pm and Dave had invited a few of the local ops over for burgers and dogs. Great fun meeting some of the local contesters and DXers. VE3RMM, John, is currently on holiday in the Pacific operating from some exotic locations(see DX News). VE3CRG, Brian, is a QRQ guy and even KBJM was impressed (I caught him raising his eyebrow...emotional for John) with Brian's 50+ cw speed. Brian recently returned from operating in the USSR with other QRQ ops from around the world.

Friday was tour day and bicycling around Ottawa was great. You probably didn't know JM was into cycling but John is now an experienced veteran of several extended rides. Dave was a super host and after a day of cycling, provided us with a great home cooked meal at his NEXT DAY TO BE bride's (Janet) home. Can you believe it! The night before his wedding he's entertaining tourists! Janet is a lovely lady and a great cook. John and I filled ourselves and enjoyed an evening of great food and excellent conversation.

Saturday morning saw Dave up early on his wedding day preparing a great sendoff breakfast for John and I. I know on my wedding day the LAST thing I would do is fix breakfast for friends...MacDonald's maybe! Anyway, John and I headed west...and south...less the hardline that made Dave the envey of his buddies. I can now say that the wedding went off WITH a hitch as Dave and Janet are happily married.