

FLASH



MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

December and January

Editor: Ted Rachwal, K8AQM

.....

THIS ISSUE

HO HO HO, HEE HEE HEE! It's Christmas in Mad River Country and a very Merry Christmas and the best of Season's Greetings to you all! What an issue we have for you this month! With the first half of the contest season history ole KBMR has outdone himself presenting a list of who did what in the CQWVs, the SS and the 160 Contests. The scores look great and if you check-out some of the calls you'll see that there are many new contesters entering Mad River for the first time. Isn't that part of the goal...getting new contesters involved? The Fish has a few words of wisdom to relate and an interesting historical summary of the K8CC multi-multi effort in CQWW SSB. If it's Christmas then it must be time for the annual KBMR Christmas Party! Jim has included an excellent map and all the information necessary to ensure you bring in the new year properly. Enjoy the witty and tongue-in-cheek humor of WBIQ as you read his letter of capitulation sent to the crew here at K8AQM regarding the WBIQ strategy of "How to ensure a victory for K8AQM". Not mentioned in the letter was the trophy sent to K8AQM...a two pound can of coffee and a two pound can of chili. To the victors go the the "spoils"! And finally, I think we have mastered the data base system here and to my knowledge, here is the most up-to-date and corrected roster of the membership. If there are any corrections and/or additions please get them to me to get on the record. I take full and personal responsibility for any and all screwups on this one!

Don't forget the NAQP in January and the CQ 160 CW Contest...oh yes, Mr. Stahl, we expect to here of a sterling performance in Stright Key Night!

To one and all in the coming new year, "May your runs be long and deep, may your multipliers be many and rare and may your scores be impressive." Happy New Year!

TITLE

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	
NZGO	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	(517) 265-3054
NBJMN	Brooks, Kevin	11639 Teachout Road	Onsted	MI	49265	(517)467-7695
NOAON	Bruening, Mike	10415 S. M-106	Munith	MI	49259	(517) 596-2651
KUBE	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
NCCC	Contest Jug	44 Toyon Terrace	Danville	CA	94526	(415) 837-6894
WBFN	Farmer, Randy	8115 S. Palmer Rd.	New Carlisle	OH	45344	(513)845-3331
KDOPF	Flynn, Mike	107 Quick St.	Blissfield	MI	49228	(517) 486-3311
K3WW	Frankford Radio Club	1326 N. 5th Street	Perkasie	PA	18944	
KBBECC	Gaffner, Dave	1949 W. Michigan 11	Clinton	MI	49236	(517) 456-4066
WBUPH	Gensler, Robert	820 Circleview Dr.	Toledo	OH	43615	(419)385-8082
VE2ZP	Goodwin, David	15 Promenade Oval	Aylmer	QUE	J9H 1T9	(819) 684-1432
KABPOW	Hannemann, Chuck	4123 Seneca Hyw	Clayton	MI	49235	(517) 445-2570
KW8N	Hayes, Bob	9192 Bender Road	N. Ridgeville	OH	44039	(216)327-4710
NU8Z	Hinkleman, Mark	108 E. Kilbuck St.	Tecumseh	MI	49286	(517) 423-5906
NBEA	Holstein, Joe	1515 Sashabaw	Ortonville	MI	48462	(313)628-7455
KCSMK	Hurt, Jim	PO Box 20271	Columbus	OH	43220	614 442-0324
KCSMK	Hurt, Jim	PO Box 20271	Columbus	OH	43220	(614) 442-0324
NGET	Kelsey, Bill	3521 Springlake Drive	Findlay	OH	45840	(419)
K8DD	Kohl, Hank	1640 Henry	Port Huron	MI	48060	(313)982-7088
W8CAR	Kovatch, Dan	2256 Pipe Street	Sandusky	OH	44870	(419)625-4666
K8BAIZ	Linder, Larry	2001 Ida Maybee	Monroe	MI	48161	
KIBW	Martz, Barry	2663 Hammond Hgld. Drive	Traverse City	MI	49684	946-8379
W8IQ	Meyers, Kurt	2376 Dana Street	Toledo	OH	43609	(419) 385-6437
N8DMM	Michaelis, Mary	11725 Point Overlook Pl.	Strongsville	OH	44136	(216)238-3695
N8ATR	Michaelis, Pete	11725 Point Overlook Pl.	Strongsville	OH	44136	(216)238-3695
W18L	Miller, John	16831 Stephens	E. Detroit	MI	48021	313-773-6943
W88IXE	Miller, Steve	220 Freyn Dr.	Centerville	OH	45458	(513)433-8090
K8JM	Millett, John	1206 Rosewood	Ferndale	MI	48220	(313) 399-6091
W88IJP	Mitchell, Tim	7325 Nightengale #2	Holland	OH	43528	419-867-3531
KE8OC	O'Sullivan, Tim	744 Foothill	Canton	MI	48188	(313)397-9732
W88VMS	Polom, Mike	20905 Andover	Southfield	MI	48076	(313)352-3018
K8CC	Pruett, Dave	2727 Harris Rd.	Ypsilanti	MI	48198	(313)481-0755
W88VMN	Pruett, Tom	521 Larchmont	Westland	MI	48185	
WR8D	Pugh, Rick	510 Marie	Westland	MI	48185	(313)595-8936
K8AQM	Rachwal, Ted	1600 Wolf Creek Hym	Adrian	MI	49221	(517)263-4066
W89INF	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
W88LLD	Steingass, Goose	1690 N. Honeytown Road	Wooster	OH	44691	(216)262-6866
KN8S	Sullivan, John	1731 Walnut Ridge Circle	Canton	MI	48187	(313)981-2641
N8CQA	Switzer, Buck	654 Georgia	Marysville	MI	48040	(313)364-9640
TDXS	TEXAS DX SOCIETY	PO Box 540291	Houston	TX	77254	
N8CXX	Tymensky, 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
K1XM	YCCC	11 Michigan Drive	Hudson	MA	01749	(508) 562-5819

FROM THE 'BIG FISH'
By Dave Pruett, K8CC

Tis the season to be jolly etc. etc. It's hard to be a 'scrouge' with the way the contest season has been thus far. The bands have been pretty good on the appropriate weekends, and quite a few MRRRC callsigns have been heard in the pileups and banging away.

CQWW SSB brought moderate sunspots, but more importantly, a quiet geomagnetic field. An almost 100% MRRRC crew at K8CC broke the eleven year old K8LX multi-multi record for W8. K8AQM, with a rookie crew, also made their presence known in multi-multi. KW8N returned to the Caribbean, and will perhaps win the world with his fine performance from KP2A. Other fine MRRRC efforts were made in the single-band and assisted categories.

SS CW was probably the best that your prez has ever seen. The promise of award pins for 100 QSOs brought out great activity to help ease the 'Sunday Blues'. MRRRC highlights included K8CC and KW8N (WD8IXE op.) both breaking the single-operator 1100 QSO barrier for the first time from W8, and KJ8A waged a fierce battle with K8DD for the Michigan "A" power crown.

The SS activity pins kept the action hot on SSB. Again, KW8N (NZ4K op.) and K8CC (WD8IJP op.) battled for the high-power single-op crown, with KW8N finishing in front for a new Ohio record. N8CXX made over 1000 QSOs "A" power. Finally, the crew at WD9INF beat the one-year old KW8N mark in hammering out a new Ohio multi-op record.

CQWW CW mirrored the SSB weekend, with not a lot of solar flux, but a quiet geomagnetic field. As the result, the high bands were decent, and the low bands were great! K8CC edged out the old W8 single op record, but NA8V beat it by another 0.5 meg - congrats Greg! K8AQM's skeleton crew again did multi-multi, with W8FN leading the way in multi-single. K8JM repeated his national-class performance from N8CXX on 28 MHz. The number of smaller MRRRC efforts did not go un-noticed, and the new K8AQM PacketCluster node added to the activity here in Detroit.

Skipping ARRL 160m for a moment, the ARRL 10m contest saw tremendous conditions. The flux was over 220 for the entire weekend, and the geomagnetic field stayed pretty quiet. (There were European spots from 50 MHz appearing on the Detroit PacketCluster - however, the recently-acquired six meter rig at K8CC is still lacking an antenna!) The multi-op action was hot and heavy, with the crew at KW8N edging out N8CXX and company. W8WD operated K8CC to over 2100 QSOs single-mode SSB. All in all, a fine conclusion to the first half of the contest season.

ARRL 160M CONTEST

By the first weekend in December, I am ready to get away from the radio for a while, so I usually do not run this contest seriously. However, MRRRC members Ted Rachwal, K8AQM and Ken Rogner, WD9INF had other plans. These two old friends decided to challenge each other in this contest. The weapons would be their respective stations, and any two "hired guns" they could coerce to operate. I was enlisted for the K8AQM crew, along with John, K8JM.

Conditions during the contest were pretty mediocre, but it WAS nice to let someone else worry about getting the station ready for a change. Using PCs w/NA software to log made operating a breeze, and a continuous packet connection to the WD9INF station (signing W8IQ on 160m) kept the interest high.

The scores from K8AQM and W8IQ are chronicled elsewhere in this 'Flash', but who won or lost is not the point. Two stations, similar in hardware, geography, and operating crew, finished close together in the final tally. All the ops took the contest seriously (no matter what W8IQ might claim), and we all had a ball. It did not matter that the "big gun" East Coasters had 20 more mults or 200 more QSOs. Perhaps this is how contesting should be - more local, where the playing field is more even. Perhaps we can do this again for the CQ 160 contest, maybe even getting more stations involved from MRRRC territory.

'BIG FISH' (continued)

LOOKING AHEAD

The contest season is only half over. January brings the new, improved NA QSO Parties, with a 150W power limit, five man teams, and a new focus which should bring new levels of activity. The end of the month is CQ 160m and/or the Super Bowl - take your pick. Early February brings the NA Sprints on CW, then SSB. MRRC will have one or more ten-man teams for these events - if you're interested, contact K8MR.

The ARRL DX Contests are the next focal point for MRRC in terms of club competition, since the three-tiered structure allows us to be competitive in our category. Plan now to get on - if you need a place to operate, call K8CC and we'll try to find you a chair. Even if you are new at contesting, perhaps we can find a place where you can go to watch and learn from the "old hands". Current band conditions are pretty good - don't let them go to waste. Keep in mind the ARRL requirements for score eligibility - you must attend two meetings in the past twelve months.

Following the ARRL DX tests is CQ WPX SSB, mindlessly scheduled for the Easter weekend. After that, all MRRC eyes turn to the Dayton Hamvention.

DAYTON PREVIEW

You may recall that MRRC did not have a hospitality suite at Dayton last year. That has been corrected for 1991, and we have reservations for Suite 425, which is the one we had in 1989, one floor directly below the KCDXC suite.

The 1989 suite was a big success in many ways. We had the large suite, and yet in the end, MRRC broke even financially. This was due in no small part to the FB job that Ted, K8AQM and Ken, WD9INF did in managing and operating the suite. Now that they have learned how to do it so well, we would prevail upon them to do it again. However, many of you may be unaware that Ted will be spending the next year in JA3-land teaching English. Ken has expressed a willingness to lead the suite again this coming year, but he

will need help. It would be unfair to dump all of the responsibility and planning on his shoulders.

In the next few months we will be looking for people to help with the suite. The tasks fall into one of three categories. First, we need someone to be responsible to open and close the suite. K8CC will be staying in the room next door, but he cannot handle opening and closing both evenings. Next, we need people to be responsible for supplying the different types of beverages: soft drinks, beer, and hard liquor/mixers.

Finally, we need people to run the suite in two hour shifts. Everybody wants to spend time socializing - after all, that IS what the suite is for. If enough of us are willing to take a shift, then everybody will get the chance to party, and nobody gets loaded with too much work.

Please be thinking about what you can do. Plan to volunteer to help make our 1991 Dayton Hamvention Suite a success.

NEXT MRRC MEETING

Once you have been in Mad River for a while, you realize that it is a club of traditions, and one of our best is coming up soon. The next MRRC meeting will be the K8MR Christmas Party on Saturday, January 5, 1991. If you have never made it to one of the Christmas parties at Jim's, you have missed a good time.

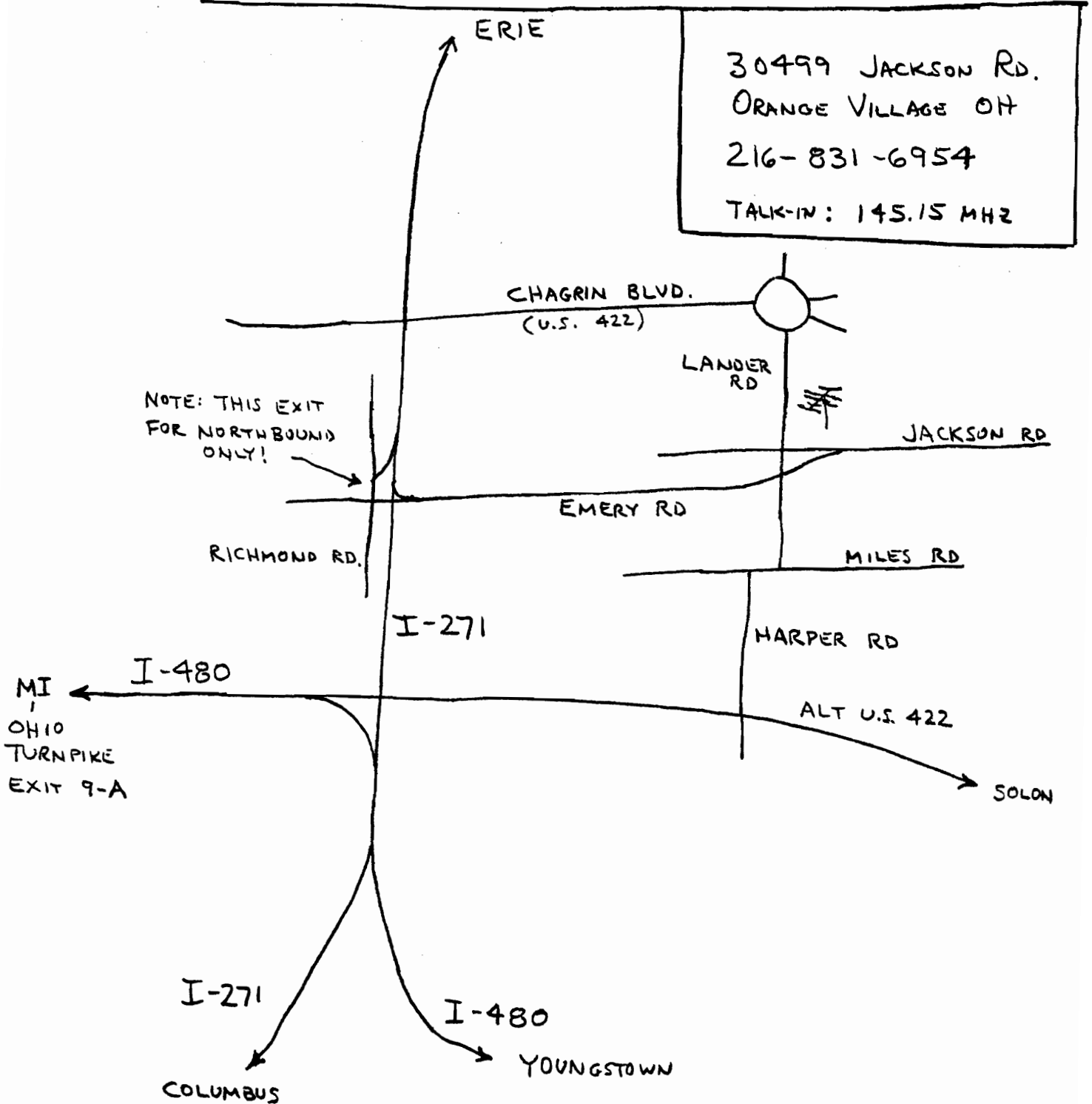
Details on the meeting are contained elsewhere in this 'Flash'. Things usually start rolling around 00Z, but check the talk-in frequencies because sometimes the 'out-of-towners' get together earlier than that. There are several reasonably-priced motels near K8MR, and are recommended for avoiding that "post-CQWW single-op" wrecked feeling from staying up late. The club has ordered a copy of the video from the World Radiosport Team Championship this past summer, which will hopefully arrive in time. Hope to CU there!

73, Dave, K8CC

14th ANNUAL K8MR CHRISTMAS PARTY

+
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB MEETING

SATURDAY JAN. 5 1991 7:30 PM



SCORES! SCORES!!

SWEEPSTAKES

CW				SSB			
K8CC	1165	/	75 B	KW8N (NZ4K)	1509	/	77 B
KW8N (WD8IXE)	1132	/	75 B	K8CC (WD8IJP)	1472	/	75 B
K8MR	945	/	75 B	KE8OC	1082	/	76 B
K8DD	674	/	75 A	N8CXX	1006	/	77 B
W8UPH	633	/	74 A	W8UPH	615	/	75 A
NZ8O	550	/	72 A	K8DD	520	/	77 A
K8CV	507	/	68 A	K8MR	397	/	72 B
W8LT (KU8E)	257	/	66 B	N8CQA	331	/	75 A
W8FN	250	/	66 A	WD8IJP (K8CC)	283	/	68 B
AC8W	250	/	53 A	W8LT (KU8E)	274	/	61 B
N8CQA	221	/	65 Q	AC8W	200	/	73 A
KU8E	201	/	65 B	W8FN	207	/	67 A
KE8OC	159	/	57 A	WD9INF	1775	/	77 B
W8EDU	924	/	74 B	(Ken + KN8R, KDØPF)			
(AF8A, N8ARD, WB8WTS)				K8AQM	70	/	26

Band By Band Breakdowns:

CW:	K8CC	85	860	48	33	139		(80 - 10)
	KW8N	193	542	259	56	82		
SSB:	K8CC	0	209	769	327	64	103	
	WD9INF	55	162	758	576	53	171	(160 - 10)

SCORES! SCORES!!

CQ WW CW

NA8V				4.0 M		
K8CC	2414	136	366	3.5 M		
K8MR	1412	146	368	2.1 M	+ Packet	
KI8W	534	83	191	409,630		
W8UPH	405	74	177	323,288		
N8CQA	102			24,075		
K7EG (NZ4K)	467	25	81	121,794	3.5 MHz	
W8FN	1918	156	484	3,499,520	M/S	+ KU8E, N8BJQ
K8AQM	1587	147	441	2.64M	M/M	
WD8LLD	1991	163	466		M/S	+ WD8AUB

BREAKDOWNS

<u>K8CC</u>			<u>WD8LLD</u>			<u>W8FN</u>		
19	8	13	43	17	38	24	11	22
79	11	42	76	26	56	86	16	56
423	24	64	345	26	83	380	32	97
542	30	83	724	33	101	401	35	105
732	34	83	522	31	93	555	32	100
619	29	81	280	29	92	472	30	104
<u>2414</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>466</u>	<u>1918</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>484</u>

SCORES! SCORES!!

CQ WW SSB

NA8V	2378/140/428	3.876 M	
K8MR	1656/142/457	2.848 M	+ Packet
WD8IXE	646 /85/146	586,146	+ Packet
KI8W		422K	
W8UPH		208,075	
K8CC	4675/180/628	9.83M	M/M
N8JNM	1523/135/420	2.15M	M/M
AD8C	213/26/87	65,540	7 MHz

KP2A (KW8N) 7475/141/478

BREAKDOWNS

<u>NA8V</u>			<u>K8MR</u>			<u>K8CC</u>		
23	9	16	21	8	13	131	14	25
64	15	43	38	11	24	393	25	69
165	21	55	112	24	71	352	29	83
446	31	98	328	30	108	1121	38	145
711	33	103	480	34	119	1359	38	158
969	32	114	677	35	122	1316	36	148
<u>2378</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>1656</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>4675</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>628</u>

ARRL 160 METER CONTEST

N8EA	664/81	KE8OC	67/27
K8MR	199/59		
W8FN	150/43	<u>MULTI-OP</u>	
N8CQA	118/35	K1LT	958/85
N8CXX	100/36	K8AQM	806/77
KU8E	70/37	J6A	370/66
			165,665
			125,202

DIARY OF A MULTI-MULTI
1990 CQWW SSB @ K8CC

PRELUDE: The station owner has been working on the station all summer. A fourth tower has been added, and EVERY antenna on the lot was moved. On the eve on the contest, only three outside tasks remain...

13Z FRIDAY: The first order of business is to wire up the 40m Telrex rotator. This is no small task since one cable comes down the tower, another goes underground to the shack, and another extends to the control box. Of course, NONE of the color codes match, but the rotator works first try - whew!

15Z FRIDAY: The rebuilt 160m shunt feed will not tune, despite K8CC's best efforts to the contrary. An alternate plan is made to hang a quarter-wave sloper from the new tower for 160m.

18Z FRIDAY: N8CQA arrives with parts of the K8DD and AC8W stations in his car trunk, and agrees to repair the beverage feedline. KT8X arrives, and is designated to work on the 160m sloper.

19Z FRIDAY: The hardline for the sloper needs a connector to be installed 110' in the air. The Honda generator is dragged to the tower for electricity, and K8CC goes up the tower armed with enough tools to install the connector. KT8X asks how long the wire should be. K8CC makes a wild guess of 140'.

22Z FRIDAY: No sign of K8DD/AC8W, who have the 160m station needed to test the sloper. K5GO arrives from the airport. NZ4K/KU8E arrive from Ohio, without the TS830S that we were planning on using for 75m. The second-string C-Line (which had not been on in eight months) is pressed into service, and is pronounced usable by NZ4K.

23Z FRIDAY: Attention now turns to getting the six computers linked. We cannot find a way to connect the second COM port on W8UA's XT at the 160m station, so it is left out of the link. We swap some DB9 and DB25 connectors, then boot CT 6.14. Each computer is set up, but we are still testing the system at 2356Z. Still no K8DD/AC8W, or 160m station to test the antenna.

00Z: CONTEST STARTS! Five stations start CQing simultaneously, and we work 31 stations in the first five minutes! After four months of stress from building the station, K8CC goes into bedroom to lie down...

The 28 MHz crew immediately notices trash from computer across entire band. No way to fix, must live with it.

01Z: K8DD/AC8W arrive with 160m station. Estimated length of 160m sloper pays off: 60W forward/2W reflected at 1830 KHz.

12Z: After doing 20m SSB all night, K8CC goes to bed, but not for long...

15Z: K5GO wakes K8CC and announces that the 15m stack box is blown up - says that first the "BOTH" position quit, then the "TOP" position quit. Now CQing Europe on "BOTTOM" position, but we need to be ready if it fails. K8CC is puzzled because 20m stack box is identical, and has had no problems.

16Z: 15m "BOTTOM" position quits, station keeps CQing on 4L south yagi. K8CC goes out to climb 15m tower, with K8DD (hobbling on crutches from foot surgery) as 440 FM liason. Use barrel connector to hardwire the stack as "BOTH". Running Europe resumes.

17Z: K8CC, KE8OC and WB8DWM conduct autopsy on stack box. Ohmmeter shows all three relay coils shorted - why? Check control box, shows exactly 24 VDC, which is rated coil voltage. K8CC worries about 20m system, which is about 32 volts. Disassemble 20m control box and add dropping resistor. Decide 15m failed due to RF - KE8OC is sent to Radio Shack for bypass capacitors.

18Z: N8CQA, K8DD, and AC8W set up on 75m and 40m, coaxing VEs out of the woodwork, and passing them between bands. This goes on all afternoon, and improves QSO totals on those bands.

19Z: Replace relays in 15m stack box, and add bypass capacitors across each coil. K8CC and K8DD go back outside to re-install stack box.

DIARY OF A MULTI-MULTI (continued)

20Z: 20m computer starts to exhibit a mysterious CT error message: "TX failure COM1". We notice that QSOs from 10m, 15m and 20m do not appear on the 40m and 80m computers - strange. All QSOs show up on 10m, 15m and 20m computers, so we keep plugging away.

21Z: 15m stack box blows up again in "BOTH" position. K8CC goes back up the tower and re-installs barrel connector. Back in workshop, we cut open a ruined relay and find windings bubbled from heat. Give up on stack box for duration of contest, but watch 20m carefully.

22Z: 20m computer now shows error messages for both COM1 and 2 - 40m and 80m QSOs now do not appear on 10m and 15m computers. Only the 20m computer is up to date - but we keep operating.

00Z: Just shy of 5M points, we are almost halfway to our goal. However, a crisis is approaching. As we pass 3000 QSOs, the 20m and 15m computers are reaching their capacity limits. This can be fixed by installing software expanded memory drivers, but we have to shut down all of the computers to do it. JAs are running good, so we decide to wait until the last minute.

02Z: The 20m computer down to less than 50 QSOs remaining, but the JAs are now starting to taper off. K8CC and WB8VMN take down the computers and install expanded memory drivers. Copy log file from 20m computer to others so all are up to date. Forget to correct software setup on one computer, which gets everything out of synch again, so repeat process. After reboot, COM ports in 20m computer mysteriously start working again.

08Z - 11Z: Low band Europe closes, late night multiplier vigil begins. Filling in on 40m, K8CC works three double mults. NZ4K works CE2AA on 75m first through a raging pileup. We convince LU4FM on 20m that 3795 is no good, and proceed to work him easily on 3753. As sunrise approaches, UA0ZDD calls us on 75m! Not much on the PacketCluster.

14Z: COM ports on 20m computer stop working again...

15Z: Finals in 20m T4XC are getting pretty soft, down to about 400W output from amplifier. Steal 75m T4XC to put on 20m - will deal with 75m later.

17Z: T4XC borrowed from 75m starts to have problems with T/R relay hanging up. Pull apart T4XC - relay looks good. Prevailing technical wisdom (i.e., everyone standing around) cannot agree on how to clean the contacts. Decide to pull good finals from 75m T4XC, and install in original 20m transmitter

18Z: We have taken the 160m station and connected it to 6L 10m yagi. W8UA is using it to scan for multipliers while KU8E runs on the stack. Jeff decides to scan also, and the inevitable happens: both Jeff and Mike start calling in the same pileup! They both look at each other, and burst out laughing. In the meantime, the DX station is responding with "I have two Charlie Charlies???".

22Z: We take the 160m station off 10m, and steal the transceiver for 75m. We passed 9 megapoints some time ago - is 10 meg possible? 15m operator K5G0 starts to get fanatical about multipliers - takes original 75m rx and scans 15m for mults with 160m sloper.

00Z: CONTEST OVER...

We check in on 3830 KHz at 9.83 meg, which appears to place us seventh. Everybody on East Coast is above us, plus W7XR, but we are ahead of N6R0 and N6ND. Furthermore, 9.83M is well above the 1979 K8LX 7.5 meg score which is the record for multi-multi from W8. We made 4600 QSOs and had a blast.

CREDITS AND THANKS

N8CQA - for handling the food planning

K8DD, AC8W, W8UA, KE8OC & WB8VMN for loaning radios and computers

K5G0, NZ4K & KU8E - for coming from out-of-state to operate the contest

To these guys, and the other operators: WA8RRR, KT8X, WD8IJP & WB8DWM - THANKS!

73 de Dave, K8CC

SHORT PATH

1990 ARRL 160 Contest: A Shunted View

Prepared for K8AQM by W8IQ

The team of W8IQ heralds the continued supremacy of K8AQM in the ARRL 160 Contest (C.W.) and rejoices that its own measured effort spared the AQM team the agony of defeat. We trust that our limited strategy made the contest interesting without necessitating undue strain in Adrian.

While secrets should be kept secret, in the interest of sportsmanship, we will reveal the steps we took to ensure a K8AQM victory.

First we set an aging FT107M in our central operating position for the crucial opening Friday night hours. Secondly, we installed an ancient MFJ keyer with sticky message buttons which would occasionally exhibit a delayed response to command. (These steps we felt would keep us behind the IC765/IBM PC combo announced for K8AQM).

Thirdly, when the contest opened, we sat down one aging operator for the first 11-1/2 hours. This operator would be allowed two ten-minute breaks. And if he sagged, we would shove a caffeinated soft drink in front of him. (We felt this strategy assure the superiority of the 3 seasoned operators at K8AQM).

Fourthly, when after running on 1812.5 for several hours, we were joined by K8AQM running on 1812, we feigned equality for awhile, even though the AQM signal swamped every stage of the FT107M receiver and, in fact, the 107 was bouncing off the table with each dit and dot from Adrian. Finally, after faking it for 20 minutes, we moved away for the sake of the 107.

Fifthly, on Saturday evening, we felt bad when we noted our lead in multipliers. We decided we would forsake hunting for multipliers. If a new one called us, we would work it, but that's all. We would make no further effort to dig 'em up.

AND IT WORKED! K8AQM has retained its unblemished record.

If we do it again, one day, we'll try to dream up new ways make it interesting without causing any harm.