



FLASH



MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

December/January

Editor: Tim O'Sullivan KE8OC

ARE YOU READY FOR HALFTIME?

Well, here we are. It's December, the holidays are upon us and it's just about half time so kick back, take a breather, spend some quality time with the wife and kids (so you can get some playing time in the second half) and see what's happening around MRRC. I hope everyone had a good 1st half for this contest season and made some great scores (I spent mine moving!). Be sure to send them in and don't forget to put MAD RIVER in the club space on the summery sheet. As I write this, the 10m contest is about to occur, and I'm going to take a break from unpacking boxes and try to get out to K8CC's as a hired gun.

The holidays also mean get ready for the 15th Annual K8MR Christmas Party and MRRC meeting on Saturday January 4, 1992 at Jims home in suburban Cleveland. Details and a map are inside, so see you there! Happy Holidays!

THE MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

President: Dave Pruett, K8CC
2727 Harris Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(313) 481-0755

Treasurer: Ken Rogner, WD9INF
2520 Centennial Road
Toledo, OH 43671
(419) 841-8781

Scorekeeper: Jim Stahl, K8MR
30499 Jackson Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
(216) 831-6954

Editor: Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC
39991 Finley Drive
Canton, MI 48188
(313) 397-9732

From the 'Big Fish'

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

By the time you read this, the 1991-92 contest season will be half over. I don't know about you, but this break in the action is always a welcome relief after the frenzied activity of the past few weeks. As usual, the crunch started in late summer, with the goal of having the station ready for CQWW SSB, and continued straight through the ARRL 160 Meter Contest. Unfortunately, we now find ourselves in that time of year when the pileup frenzy takes place in the shopping mall instead of the ham bands. It never ends, does it?

Despite few favors from the ionosphere, its been a pretty good contest season thus far. Both of the CQWW contests suffered from disturbed propagation conditions, yet we managed to work at least a few 28 MHz JAs on both modes. No records were set, but there were major MRRC efforts from K8CC, WD8LLD and K7EG, as well as strong MRRC representation on the J6DX CW crew. Congrats to all for a job well done.

Once again this year, the ARRL November Sweepstakes had good activity with higher QSO totals to be found. MRRC was in the thick of it, with claimed division records set by K8CC (CW high power single op), K8MJZ (SSB high power single op), and KW8N (SSB high power multi-operator). Elsewhere in this 'Flash' you will find a compilation of MRRC Sweepstakes score rumors. A rough total of these scores shows about 3.7 million points for the MRRC coffers from 35 entries. There are rumors of a few more sizable scores to be added, enough that I am confident that MRRC could top 4 million if all of our logs get submitted. A GREAT JOB MRRC!

**The MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB net
occurs every Monday evening at
8:30pm EST on 3825 Khz ± QRM.**

(continued...)

From the 'Big Fish' (continued)

The ARRL 160 Meter Contest also had outstanding activity this year, which was a big benefit to at least a couple of MRRC efforts. Ken, AA8AV, piloted the K8CC station in his first try at ARRL 160, and is looking good to wind up fourth in the USA for single operator. Down Columbus way, a predominantly MRRC crew at KN8Z piloted Doc's FB station to a huge score in the multi-operator category, which as of this writing looks to be #1 in the USA! Congrats both to AA8AV and the KN8Z operating crew.

A couple of years ago, our club was characterized as "not a real contest club" by some former members. Apparently, they only view entries in the "big gun" category as "real" honest-to-goodness contest efforts. In looking over what our members have done so far this season, I believe that we have pretty well debunked their accusation, in the following ways:

- A number of new people have joined our club who were not members in the past. These people made major contributions to MRRC multi-ops, or added individual scores to the MRRC total.
- A number of members have tried contests or categories that were new to them. Several stations added or borrowed hardware to take them to new levels of effort.
- A greater recognition throughout the club that it is OK to put in less than a full-tilt effort. Many of these entries provided new challenges or learning experiences for their operators.

Most of all, it appears that MRRC members have had a lot of fun operating this season in lots of different ways. That is the major goal of our club - to help our members derive satisfaction from their contest efforts. It is my hope that we have succeeded in accomplishment of that goal for each and every one of you.

1992 MRRC MEETINGS

Our club had eight official meetings in 1991. It's my opinion that we did a pretty good job of spreading out the meetings geographically, and my deep thanks to all the members who hosted meetings in this past year: K8MR, WU2B, WD8LLD, N8ET, and K7EG. Also, let's not forget our trusty Dayton Hamvention Suite chairman

(WD9INF) and his crew.

For 1992, it is hoped to added some organization (egads!) and planning to the meeting schedule. Sometimes, MRRC meetings are scheduled in conjunction with some other amateur radio activity (Findlay, Dayton, etc.). However, our number one goal in planning meetings is to provide several reasonably convenient opportunities for club members to get together over the year.

Considering the many weekends each year which are filled with a major contest, it is conservative to plan for six MRRC meetings for the year. Dayton and Findlay are major hamfests and traditional MRRC meetings near the club's center. The K8MR Christmas Party is a successful long-running MRRC tradition that comes near a time of year when people are thinking holidays and relaxation. This leaves three meetings to schedule.

Perusal of the latest MRRC roster shows that half of the current MRRC membership resides in Michigan. To accomodate these people, two meetings should be in Michigan. Another area with strong MRRC activity and growth is in the Columbus area, where MRRC should have a meeting to accomodate those members.

To summarize, here is a tentative list of MRRC meetings for 1992 (not necessarily in order):

K8MR Party	Early January
Michigan I	Late February?
Dayton 1992	Late April
Columbus	Early July?
Findlay	Early September
Michigan II	Mid October?

We are seeking hosts for the Michigan and Columbus meetings. This is not meant to exclude people who have hosted meetings in the past, but to get all of us thinking about future possibilities. To host a meeting, you need to have enough space for 15-25 people, and preferably a contest station for people to view. If you would like to host a meeting, get in touch with K8CC.

This schedule is not meant to be all-exclusive - in the past, we have had MRRC meetings at other places (WD8LLD, NoarsFest, Warren Hamfest, etc.). The club would like to have more meetings per year, not less. If a MRRC member wishes to

hold a meeting other than what is proposed, they should contact K8CC to work out a date which will fit into the MRRC schedule.

JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

A number of MRRC members are now QRV on the VHF bands. The January VHF Sweepstakes is coming up on January 18-29, 1992, and a couple of months ago I proposed that MRRC members make it a point to get on and work a few VHF QSOs and submit our first-ever entry in the Affiliated Club competition.

What does it take to get on VHF? Most stations have either some sort of multi-mode radio, or else a regular HF rig used in conjunction with a transverter. Either setup usually provides about ten watts output, which can be used with a solid state amplifier (a.k.a "brick") to boost the power into the 80-160 watt range.

2M is the most popular VHF band, and the one most people start with. Most of the JA manufacturers produce one or more models of 2M multi-mode radios, plus there are a number of transverters available. There is very little risk of TVI, and antenna size is quite modest.

After 2M, I would recommend getting a 6M rig, but there are not too many different types available, and TVI is always a possibility due to proximity to TV channels 2 and 3. Many people chose instead to try 432 MHz, where most JA manufacturers have at least one model in their product line, a number of "brick" power amps are available, and there are no TVI risks. The antennas are quite small, but feedline loss can be a real problem. After 432, most people try 222 MHz, then 1296 MHz. Beyond these bands, you're into the serious stuff where you don't need any advice from me.

VHF contesting is a lot more fun if you have multiple bands to work. At K8CC, I bought a used Yaesu FT-726R transceiver with plug-in modules to cover 50/144/432 MHz with 10W output. This rig, or the newer Yaesu FT736R (which can cover four VHF bands) is a great way to get multiple bands from one rig without messing with transverters.

To increase power output, most VHFers use commercially-available bricks to get up into the the 100W+ range. We took a different approach here at K8CC. I bought a used Henry 2002A amplifier (single 3CX800) for 2M which, when driven through a 30W brick, will produce 800W output without strain. On 6M, the FT726R drives a small homebrew amp consisting of a pair of "Drake-Line final" 6JB6s in grounded grid,

producing 80w output. I used this setup with good success in the September VHF contest - however, over Thanksgiving I modified an old SB220 to work on 50 MHz, where I now get a cool 900W output with no fuss. I plan to get a 100W brick for 432 MHz prior to January.

VHF antennas come in many shapes and forms. Probably the most popular homebrew antenna for 2M (and the easiest to get working) is the Quagi. Cushcraft, KLM, and M² are the popular brands, any of which work OK. Try to get at least a 14' boom or so for 2M. On 6M, HF techniques similar to 10M can be applied, only the antennas are roughly half size. Homebrewing a 6M beam is relatively easy, or else any of the above-mentioned manufacturers can provide suitable products. Above 2M, I recommend you buy a commercially-made antenna, since VHF designs are tricky and can be difficult to duplicate.

So, what's it like to operate a VHF contest? On 6M, conditions are much like 10M - scatter and E-skip are your prime tools, and it pays to be nimble with your antenna rotator. 2M is where the action is - with a barefoot radio (10W) and a 14' boom yagi up 50' or more, you can readily work out to 300 miles or so under normal conditions, but you will probably spend most of your time answering other people. With 80W output and the same antenna, you can actually call CQ and run stations. With this kind of setup, you can often work people out to 500-600 miles. The higher bands offer propagation similiar to 2M, but the path losses are greater.

By now, unless you are already QRV on VHF SSB/CW, you are convinced that K8CC has been exposed to VHF RF for too long. "There's no way I'm gonna go buy a radio just to work a few guys in January", you say. Well, you can still help out the MRRC cause. 2M FM contacts are legal for the contest, as long as they don't take place on 146.52 MHz. I am going to propose that all MRRC members who can get on 2M FM try to meet at the following times during the contest on 146.58 MHz:

Saturday 1/18/92 - 1900Z and 2100Z

Sunday 1/19/92 - 1900Z and 2100Z

K8CC is gonna even steal the PacketCluster antenna at his QTH to put out a good signal on 2M FM. I hope to work everyone on VHF in January!

MRRRC 1991 SCORE RUMORS

de K8CC & K8MR

SWEEPSTAKES

CW - HIGH POWER

K8CC 1185-77
KW8N (WD8IXE) 1118-77
K7EG (KU8E) 1020-77
W8FN 852-77
K8MR 823-77
AG8W 718-75
W8UPH 673-73
W8UA 511-73
WD8AUB 434-77

SSB - HIGH POWER

K8MJZ 1552-77
K8CC (WD8IJP) 1375-77
K8MR 1160-77
AA8FE 1134-77
WD8IJP (K8CC) 493-71
N8HTT 372-77

WD8LLD 1198 129 CW S/O
WD8AUB 1149 129 CW S/O
AA8FE 762 96 MIXED S/O L/P
AA8AV 670 109 CW S/O L/P
WD9INF 286 96 MIXED S/O
N8CQA 160 40 CW S/O QRP
W8FN 100 45 CW S/O
K8CC 63 45 MIXED S/O
K8MR 30 ? ?????

CW - LOW POWER

K8DD 644-76
WD8O 603-72
AC8W 579-76
WD8LLD 441-74
N8JEC 224-64
WA8OSE 160-48

SSB - LOW POWER

K8DD 602-77
WA8OSE 510-77
W8UPH 550-74
WD8O 424-77
VE3RIK 363-71
N8CQA 278-74
AC8W 200-65
WD8IXE 161-55
N8CXX 113-42

CW - QRP

N8CQA 282-70

SSB - QRP

CW - MULTI-OPERATOR

W8EDU 939-77

SSB - MULTI-OPERATOR

KW8N 2001-77
WD9INF 1713-77
K7EG 654-77

ARRL 160M

KN8Z 1190 93 (multi)
K8CC(AA8AV) 1124 83
WD9INF 327 57
N8CXX 160 41
N8CQA 116 40
K8DD 74 34

ARRL 10M

N8CXX 1825 154 SSB S/O

CQWW DX CW

K8CC 47 12 27
151 19 57
660 35 113
776 37 124
864 35 122
553 29 105
3051 167 548 5.99M M/M

WD8LLD 1419 166 487 2.56M M/S

K8GL 18 9 13
75 17 43
210 31 95
330 34 92
370 33 91
240 28 85
1250 152 419 2.0M S/O

NA8V 1281 140 361 2.0M S/O
K8MR 959 132 363 1.35M S/U
K8DD 870 125 365 1.18M M/S
WA8OSE 705 128 331 900K M/S
W8IQ 534 98 247 515K S/O
7J3ABO 475 91 136 276K S/O
W8UPH 333 73 115 212K S/O
AA8FE 173 48 115 78K S/U

J6DX 654 18 62
1306 21 81
2046 29 102
2998 34 124
4007 37 130
3033 32 117
14044 171 616 27.4M M/M

CQWW SSB

K8CC 291 10 21
291 18 61
344 29 87
909 38 141
842 38 137
705 33 133
3382 166 580 5.83M M/M

K8MR 798 121 361 1.04M S/U
WA8OSE + N8JEC
815 121 327 945K M/S
KN8Z + WX8T 810K M/S
KW8N 1102 37 145 548K
N8HTT 316 79 193 229K S/U
W8UPH 361 62 154 208K S/O
WD9INF 272 76 158 163K S/U
WD8IXE 178 63 123 84K S/U
WD8LLD 200 21 60 58K S/U

The 14th annual K8MR Christmas Party & MRRC Meeting

Saturday January 4, 1992 7:30pm

Mad River Radio Club
Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC
39991 Finley Dr.
Canton, MI 48188