



August/September 1992

Editor: Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC

SUMMER'S OVER (I Think)!

Yeah, Yeah I know that this is the end of August and that by the time you see this September will already be here, But I've been busy with work and house and haven't had a lot of time for radio. I did manage to get out to K8AQM's for the MRRC meeting in July and I heard that the one at Doc's was a smashing success. Well September brings us another long time MRRC tradition, the Findley Hamfest meeting and the N8ET Bash the night before. Yes, Bill was able to convince Tina, to let us back for another get together this year. Details will be found elsewhere in this issue. As summer (what there was of it) wains, I hope you all got this years antenna work completed, or at least started so you can finish at the last second before the contest starts. If not, come to Findley and pick up those odds and ends you need and while your there stop in at the meeting and say Hey! See Ya!

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From the 'Big Fish'

By Steve Miller, WD8IXE

As summer rolls on, contest season is growing near. Now's the time to upgrade the low-band antenna farm as the sunspots decline. The predicted **Smoothed Sunspot Numbers** for October and November are 97 and 93 compared to 1991 values of 142 and 138. The 10m Novice/Technicians could be in for a rude awakening.

The first summer meeting was held at the K8AQM site. Thanks to Ted for hosting a fine get together. It was my first chance to see the K8AQM station which is already poised to post **big scores** this season and will only improve once the planned upgrades are complete. I arrived too late to meet all the attendees but still talked to several of the die-hards who stayed late.

The second meeting brought Mad River (along with several NCCers and local DXers) to the KN8Z homestead. The "First Annual KN8Z Barbecue and Goat F@&% for unwed DXers and contesters" was quite a success. For those unable to make it, you missed out on a lot of fun. Fortunately (or unfortunately), Mike, AA8FE, brought his camcorder and recorded some of the more memorable moments. The edited version might debut at Dayton in the MRRC suite. And **yes**, there really was a **goat** however, the poor critter was mysteriously absent when I left. The last time I saw it was just before NZ4K left ...hmmmm.

During the meeting Mike, AA8FE, showed off the new MRRC callsign badge complete with the club

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

logo. They look great! Badges cost \$10 (postage included) **send your money** to Mike.

'Big Fish' continued

Doug, WD8AUB, then asked about teams for the NCJ sprints. He was immediately appointed the MRRC September sprint team chairman. Anyone interested in operating the sprints (CW and phone are the 1st and 2nd weekends in September respectively) should contact Doug ASAP. The sprints are fun little contests and a good way to brush up operating skills.

MRRC will co-sponsor a contest dinner with FRC, NCC, and YCCC. The contest dinner will be at Stouffer's on Saturday night during Hamvention. The dinner will be similar to the DX dinner on Friday night except the guest speaker won't talk as long (phone **contest experience** I presume). This should provide a nice atmosphere for a big contester gathering. The only support required of MRRC is volunteer time since the dinner will be financially self-supporting. A vote on this matter passed unanimously - more details as they become available.

MRRC was approached by the NCC to combine scores for a single club entry for the CQ 160 and possibly WPX contests. This idea apparently originated from an east coast contester who stated that MRRC/NCC combined scores would be **very competitive**. Opinions on this matter were pretty evenly divided with a few more people against the joint effort versus for it. No action will be taken by MRRC at this time however, logistics such as what name to use, attendance requirements, club circle, etc. will be investigated should both clubs eventually agree to the alliance. If you have an opinion on this subject, please let me know via telephone, the Monday night net, or PacketCluster (N8BJQ node).

Meetings, meetings, and more meetings with the next one taking place at the Findlay Hamfest, September 13th. There will be the annual pre-Findlay get together at N8ET's place September 12th. Details appear elsewhere in this issue. Special thanks to Bill who probably **had to cash in** a few favors to allow our return this year. Goose, WD8LLD, will host the Wooster meeting in October. Hope to see you there!

Last but not least, a hearty welcome to the new members of the Mad River Radio Club. Hopefully, MRRC will be able to help **improve** your contest skills and **scores**. If you have any questions concerning Mad River or contesting, feel free to ask myself or another club member. We'd be happy to help!!

73, Steve, WD8IXE

MRRC Findley Meeting

	46	21
	598	226
N8CQA	88	50

The next Mad River meeting will be held on-site during the Findley Hamfest at Noon on Sunday September 13, 1992. As last year, the meeting location will be announced over the PA system, so be QRV for the call.

As stated elsewhere in this issue, THERE WILL BE a "pre-Findley Hamfest get-together" at the N8ET QTH on the evening of September 12. Bill say's "It will be toned down from last year - i.e. show up around 5-6PM and leave around 9." As usual, there will be floor space available for those who don't want to go to the expense of a hotel room. Food (burgers, hot dogs, etc.) and refreshments (pop and beer) will be provided by the club. Bill will also have the usual supply of Hamfest tickets available at pre-hamfest prices. So come on out and have a blast!

On a slightly different subject, Bill say's to "look out for a well known contest station(that has been quite inactive the past few years!) in northwest Ohio this contest season, especially on 160... Things are happening."

Directions to N8ET: Exit I-75 at US route 68 south. Follow US-68 to Western Avenue exit. You want to take TR-81 west to TR-77 south. Follow TR-77 to TR-80, where you turn left and follow to Spring Lake Drive. N8ET is on the corner, but the only antenna is a Ringo Ranger on the chimney.

N8ET phone: (419) 423-5643
Talk in: W8FT/r 147.15 (+600)

Score Rumors

		<u>IARU</u>		
AA8AV	669	88	223,432	CW
W8FN	413	73	131,765	CW
N8CQA	209	66	51,942	CW
K8DD	191	25	21,075	CW
WD8AUB	164	36	4,272	

		<u>WAE CW</u>	
N8CQA	80	?	11,315

		<u>NAQP CW</u>	
K8CC	73	44	3,212

		<u>NAQP SSB</u>	
KW8N	38	24	
	107	39	
	182	50	
	122	52	
	103	37	

Field Day 1992: 1B

by Doug Klein, WD8AUB

The last full weekend in June marks one of my favorite contests. A lot of people don't think of Field Day as a contest, but to a few of us, it is. To most, it is a chance to get on the air for perhaps the first and only time of the year - or to get a weekend away from it all. Sunburns, bugs, hot days and cold nights, hot dogs, cold pop and beer are just a few of the things that are synonymous with Field Day.

Tom Kravec, W8TK and I have been doing FD for more than 10 years now. We have discovered that a well organized FD effort with a two person (or maybe a few more) crew can correct the bad taste that the local clubs tend to leave in the mouths of the organizers. When two people have been doing FD together for a decade, the operation becomes like clockwork. Experience replaces Murphy. Past mistakes are noted at the end of FD and then not repeated the next year. In short, it becomes big time FUN! The following is a recap of our 1992 FD and perhaps some hints that you may want to store away until next year's FD. 1992 was a special year for our effort because there was (or was supposed to be) a MRRC club-wide competition for 1A's. Even though we entered 1B, we were in there trying for the Gold against the likes of the gang at K8MR.

Friday is an important day in a FD operation. Tom has done all of the work on Friday the last two years due to my new Government job that takes me on training FD week without fail. All of the equipment, antennas, generator, notes from last year, food, etc. must be assembled and hauled to the FD site. Actual set-up should not take all that long if all the stuff is packed in an organized fashion. A few of things that often get overlooked, are coax jumpers, barrel connectors, adapters, and alarm clocks. (We operate in 4 hour shifts, and usually crash away from the operating position, thus, an alarm clock is essential. Just ask Goose - I heard that he had to wake Jeff, KU8E from a deep slumber this year, hi.

We have tried lots of antennas, and think we have the perfect antenna for FD. We have used multiple wavelength in-phase wires, and just this year settled on a real winner. We used a double extended zepp for 40 meters. It is .64 wavelength on each side and fed with 300 ohm twin lead. A roller inductor tuner makes sure that we have a good match at the rig. It tunes great on all bands. A separate 20 meter dipole at 20 feet above a metal barn roof rounds out the antenna farm.

They are easy to put up and the zepp has some gain on 40 meters. It is bi-directional on 40 meters, and essentially omni-directional on the other bands.

Beams are a waste of time in our opinion. They take lots of time to put up, and have detrimental effects on our bottom line: Work everyone on every band. 1. Beams have low angles of radiation and will tend to skip over short haul stuff. The beamwidth on even a small tribander like my KT34A has a 3db beamwidth of 60 degrees. F/B and F/S ratios are almost always good on FD tribanders - just the opposite of what you want. I WANT to work W1's and W6's at the same time.

How did this year go? Best time ever! We had a packet set up so we were in constant contact with the K8MR group which kept the adrenaline going.

Plus, it was just fun to check in from the Field with the other FD operations. We made 29 FD qsos on packet and got the 100 point bonus. The best place seemed to be on the DX PacketCluster network. Simplex CQ's got only 1 answer. Just do an ANNOUNCE/FULL "CQ FD", and you'll likely get lots of 1D reports. SYSOPS don't appreciate it much though.

Conditions were very good this year, despite the WWV numbers and report of a major storm on Friday. 40 meters was hot all weekend and was long well past sunrise. We worked W6's and W7's 2 hours past sunrise! 80 meters was the years surprise. Activity seemed up this year. We had nearly 400 cw qsos on 80 meters. Noise was not the usual s9 that we have grown to expect on 80 meters. As a result, we did not make as many band changes. Some credit is likely due Tom's new FT1000. It is a dream radio for Field Day.

20 meters was wonderful, too. During the day, the band sounded like 40 meters. It was like we had a pipeline into W1 land. The low dipole made the difference. We did well into the west coast, but had lots of calls from 9's, 1's and 4's.

One big boost to our score in FD was the computer. About 5 years ago we switched to computer logging and have never looked back. It was funny this year, I needed a pencil to log the packet qsos, and we had to dig through the rubble to find one. We do not have a pencil on the operating table! Getting used to typing the call as you hear it takes some time, but will come quicker than you might think. There is no

question in my mind that it makes a big difference.

Some other hints from the W8TK group. Keep the bug spray and fly swatter near the rig. There are always 3 people calling you while you are throwing the newspaper at the wasp buzzing you.

Don't forget about bonus points. It is easy to send a message to the SM on packet. Write a letter to your local newspaper. Download the W1AW FD message. And get a solar cell pack and a marine battery and make 5 qsos on the battery powered rig. Also, consider having the second op make the packet qsos and satellite qsos while the other operates. Both of these are free transmitters. Try RS/10 if you don't have any 220 gear. RS/10 works on either a 15 meters up 10 meters down or 2 meters up and 10 down.

Regarding the 27 hour versus 24 hour dilemma. Don't bother with the 27 hour operating period. With 2 operators, it is too difficult to set up in that short period, and you will only compromise your best operating time (our best rates are ALWAYS the first 2 to 4 hours). Additionally, only the lids and 1D's are left after 3pm local time. Unless you like to listen to yourself call cq alot, the time could be better spent tearing down and having a post-contest beer.

Field Day is the contest that has it all. A weekend with a good friend or two. Lots of radio tinkering and antenna work. Fast and furious qsos. The great outdoors, stary nights and the ever present whirl of the FD generator..... CU next year from Delaware County, Ohio.

Last Chance

If You have not paid your dues for this calendar year by the Findley Hamfest meeting, I'm sorry to say that this is the last issue of the flash you will receive until the dues are paid. So, if you want to continue to receive this fine rag, get your dues (\$7.00) to Ken, WD9INF as soon as possible.

As a general rule I usually fall into the category of dis-interested observer when it comes to the workings of our law making body, The U.S. Congress. However, even the most casual observer becomes interested when something that is near and dear to them is threatened. No, there is not any new threat to our spectrum as of yet, that's not why I'm writing.

We all know what happened to 220 and there will be other attacks on us as time goes by, but we can try to do something about this type of situation that would prevent this kind of attack in the future. In the July issue of QST(see pg.44 "Man the Word Processors"), there was an article about two bills(H.R.73 and S.1372) in congress now that would provide the protection we seek if we can get them passed. The league is obviously in strong support of getting these bills passed and is urging a letter writing campaign to gain sponsorship for the bills, and the QST article contains a rough outline for a letter and the names of the congressman and senators to send them to.

OK, so what's in it for me? Well, the benefits are somewhat obvious, but if you are like me, my first idea was "the league is into it, let the league handle it". In retrospect, the league is counting on us to write letters for them. We can sit back and "let the next guy do it", or we can get on our logging computers and bang out a letter to congress. The results won't be immediate, heck, we may never hear if our efforts accomplished anything, but if we don't try, and the bills don't pass, then we maybe disappointed and disillusioned the next time the FCC grants another part of our spectrum to some commercial endeavor and have only ourselves to blame. So dig out the word processors and have at it. The spectrum you save maybe your favorite one!

**N8ET PRE-HAMFEST FEAST
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1992
5:00 TIL 9:00PM**

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