



February/March 1993

Editor: Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC

ARRL DX - Full Speed Ahead!

If you saw the October edition of QST, then you know we were bested in the ARRL DX medium club competition by the clubs that surround us geographically, namely the North Coast Contesters and Society of Midwest Contesters. If we want to take aim at these guys, there is only one way to do it. We need to get on the air and turn in scores. That doesn't mean we all have to do an all out effort for 48 hrs. If you can only spare a part time effort, or your home station isn't exactly up to par, that's OK, turn in the score anyway. The big multi-op megapoint scores are nice, but it takes several medium sized scores to win the gavel. So make some Q's and send the scores in. We can take these guys!

For those of you that are wondering if you are eligible for club competition on be half of MRRRC, check the back page. See ya in the pile-ups!

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From the 'Big Fish'

By Steve Miller, WD8IXE

A belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all as I tried to note in the last Flash. Hopefully, the U.S. postal service won't lose or erase this disk on its way to Tim this time. I hope 1993 will bring bigger and better scores (and towers and amplifiers etc....) for everyone. The second half of the 92-93 contest is upon us and it's time to **kick into high gear** for a strong Mad River finish.

Mad River started off 1993 with a bang at the annual K8MR Christmas - New Year's party. As usual, a good time was had by all. Jim, once again, hosted a fine gathering and even made arrangements for NAQP activity using a borrowed CX-7 and a FT-1000, something old and something new. After the business portion of the meeting, we tried something suggested by Dave, K8CC, which he saw at a Murphy's Marauders meeting. Everyone took a minute or two and told of their recent contest activity and their plans for the upcoming contests. From a club standpoint, it was a good way for MRRRCers to share their personal accomplishments/goals (or how Murphy came to town) and something I hope to do more regularly. On the personal side, I must now find a way to thwart the challenge made by NA8V for ARRL DX CW. This will provide some **added incentive** to pilot the KW8N station **for a big score**. Greg, see you in the piles!

As I write this, the CQ 160 CW contest has just concluded with several Mad River stations braving the **static, sleepless nights, and weak DX**

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

'Big Fish' continued

signals. There were several fine efforts posted this year - check out the preliminary score listings. By the time you get this, the February CW sprint will probably be over with. Hope I worked you on 3 bands. Don't forget the phone sprint 0000-0400z February 14 (Saturday night local time) followed by a MRRC meeting slated for Sunday, February 14 at the K8CC QTH. Details on the meeting appear elsewhere in this issue. The following weekends host the ARRL DX CW, CQ 160 phone, and ARRL DX phone contests and March rounds out with WPX phone. Are you ready? Let's Go!!!

April = Dayton and MRRC plans are in order. The Stouffer suite has been secured and all we need now are a few volunteers to man the refreshments stand. A reminder that club elections will be held at the Dayton meeting. Don't miss the meeting or the MRRC railroad just might run over you!!! Also, I just received notice on the **1st Annual Dayton Contest Dinner** sponsored by MRRC, FRC, NCC, and YCCC.

The early reservation deadline for MRRC members is February 16, 1993. For those who may not have received notice, the dinner will be held in Stouffer's on Saturday, April 24 at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$26 per person (no refunds). Make checks out to: North Coast Contesters - Dayton Dinner, P. O. Box 59, New Bedford, PA 16140. Include a SASE and put your callsign on your check.

That's it for now. 73, and **GO MAD RIVER!!**

Steve, WD8IXE

MRRC Score Rumors

NAQP SSB

WB8JBM (NZ4K)	630	216
W8EDU (AF8A)	400	145
KF8QE	188	80
W8LT (KU8E)	136	?
K8MR	100	47

VHF SS

K8MR	271	62	16,802
6&2m			
WD8AUB/R	160	55	8,800 2m

CQ 160 CW

K8CC(AA8AV)	1018	82	194,000
WD8LLD	642	55	32 141,810
AA8U(KF8QE)	676	56	23 130,557
WD8AUB	317	54	11 49,400
KW8N	296	47	6 36,146
K8MR	233	46	3 25,725
W8FN	93	47	12,455
WD8IXE	45	30	1 3,317

KN8Z	M/O	???	102	320,000
WD9INF	M/S	719	73	13 137,760

ARRL 160

AA8U	1084	79	172,220	M/S
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CQWW SSB

AA8U	2673	153	541	5,071,058
M/S				
NP2E(KW8N)	3902	36	146	1,795,248
15m				

ARRL SS SSB

KW8N	2069	77	318,626	M/O
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SPRINT CW

KW8N	283	43	12,196
K8CC	301	40	12,040
KU8E	257	42	10,794
K8MR	268	39	10,452
WD8IXE	255	38	9,690
W8FN	231	39	9,009
NZ4K	217	41	8,897
K8DD	202	36	7,272
W8EDU (AF8A)	174	33	5,742
		MRRC	86,065

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

The following is a list of MRRC members who are eligible to participate in the ARRL Club Competition:

AA8FE AA8GS AA8U AC8W AD8C AF8A K8AQM K8CC K8DD K8GL K8MR K8NA K8NLD KA8POW KA8PTT KB8VN KC8MK
KC8WR KD8B KE8OC KF8QE KF8TY KN8Z KS8S KT8X KW8N N8ATR N8CC N8CQA N8DMM N8ET N8HTT N8JMN N8MFF
NA8V NZ4K NZ8O W8FN W8IQ W8UA W8UPH WA8OSE WB8OHO WB8RNY WD8UAB WD8IJP WD8IXE WD8LLD WE8Z
WS8T WX8T WD9INF.

Members who need to make 1 more meeting to be eligible:

VE3RIK WB8ATA N8TIB KU8E KD8ECG WB8WTS NU8Z N8EA WA8UWQ K8MFO KU8U AA8AV N8QZO K8NA W8WD
WB8VMN WU2B.

TRAVELS IN CONNECTICUT

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

I am fortunate that my job provides me with an occasional opportunity to visit our contester brethren in other parts of the country. Chrysler informed me that they had need for me in Connecticut during the week after SS CW. We would fly into Hartford, and stay in Norwich for a couple of days, for which I was delighted. Why, you ask? Hint: Newington is a suburb of Hartford...you get the picture.

I called Rus, NJ2L at the ARRL and told him I was coming. He provided phone numbers for Jack, W1WEF and Dan, K1TO, and also informed me that there was a Murphy's Marauders club meeting at ARRL HQ that week. For those of you who don't recognize the name, Murphy's is one of the oldest contest clubs in the country. They were also the progenitors of the YCCC, in much the same way as MRRC begat the NCC. I figured I'd fit right in.

Myself and two other engineers flew to Connecticut on the Wednesday morning after SS CW. We traveled to the job in a rented minivan, but twiddled our thumbs for most of the day, not able to accomplish our task. Unfortunately, we twiddled our thumbs most of the evening too - Norwich is a good sized town, but they appear to roll up the sidewalks around 6 PM. Dinner was at the only open restaurant we could find, followed by a shopping spree in the local "odd lot" store. Talk about boring...

Thursday AM we were able to get our work successfully accomplished, but it was too late to double back to Norwich, check out of the hotel and make the 45 minute trek back to Hartford in time to catch the Northwest flight back to Detroit. We decided instead to make the hour drive down to the coast and visit Yale University. It was fun cruising through the ivy-covered campus, and we all bought sweatshirts to commemorate our visit.

Friday we checked out the hotel and drove back to Hartford to drop off my co-workers. Thus unencumbered, it was time to let the radio fun begin. Thirty minutes later I was standing in the driveway at W1WEF. The terrain in New England is quite hilly compared to what we have here in the midwest. Jack's QTH was at the crest of a small hill, surrounded by other hills of similar height. The antenna farm at W1WEF is a single 100' tower with a TH7DXX on top, and a 3L tribander down lower for South America. He has quite a few wire antennas for the low bands, the most impressive of which was a 50' high 40M 3L

wire yagi aimed west for domestic contests. Inside was a TS930, TS830, and a pair of MLA2500s, plus the obligatory logging computer and packet setup.

Jack asked if I wanted to drive up to western Massachusetts to see the multi-multi station at KY1H. The drive was about 2½ hours each way, but Dave (KY1H) happened to be home that day, plus it gave Jack and I a chance to chew the fat and sample 20 CW from W1WEF/m using a TS120 and Huster whip. In my 24 years as a ham I had never operated HF mobile before (much less CW), so it was a kick chasing DX from the car.

The KY1H QTH is on very high ground, and currently has three towers. Tower 1 is 60' high, with 4L/4L/5L yagis for 28 MHz. Tower 2 is 90' high, with 4L/4L/4L for 21 MHz. Tower 3 is 150' high, with 4L/4L/4L for 14 MHz, plus a pair of 2L Cushcraft 40s on sidemounts. Dave also has separate four-square arrays for 7 and 3.5, plus a vertical on 1.8 MHz. Inside, the shack has six separate operating positions for multi-multi, each with its own dedicated 386DX-25 computer. Transceivers and amplifiers are brought in by the visiting operators. There is also a PacketCluster node at KY1H.

After visiting for an hour or so with Dave, Jack and I headed back for Hartford. Several of Murphy's gang get together for dinner before the meeting, which I didn't want to miss. We backtracked to Jack's to get my minivan, then I headed downtown to the ARRL. I arrived right at the close of business, but Rus was waiting for me and took me on a tour of Headquarters. I was pleased to run into old friend Bill Kennemer, K5FUV, who now works in the DXCC Department. You might know Bill as the original editor of QRZ DX, but I knew him as the guy who invited me to operate at N5AU in 1982, and who later moved to my old stomping grounds (Arkansas).

After the tour Rus, Bill and I headed to the restaurant, where we were met by Jack, W1WEF, Mark, AA2Z, Dan, K1TO, Rich, K1CC, and Chet, N8RA. (I may be leaving some people out, for which I apologize.) We had a great time breaking bread, and with phone SS and CQWW CW just around the corner, there was no shortage of topics to discuss.

The Murphy's Marauder's meeting was a good time, and very interesting. There were about

Travels... continued

thirty people present, mostly callsigns that you would certainly recognize. After the usual announcements, business, etc., Mark, AA2Z demonstrated the 40M QRP transceiver that he used in SS CW (see the January QST, page 38).

This is a truly innovative design that is relatively simple and straightforward to duplicate, yet with good performance. K8CC is ordering a set of boards to build one for himself. (Note to N8CQA: yes, K8CC might actually try QRP...).

The other interesting part of the meeting was when club president Bob, KG1D initiated a roundtable discussion of the two most recent contests. We went around the room, and each person spent a minute or so describing their efforts in CQWW SSB and SS CW. MM mounted several sizable efforts in CQWW SSB, including a club multi-single head-to-head between crews at N8RA and K1TO. A number of guys also had big scores in SS CW. Next, we repeated the cycle, going around the room with each person telling about their plans for phone SS and CQWW CW. I thought these times were great, in that it brought everyone (big and little gun alike) into the discussion. (As an aside, we tried this idea at the MRRC meeting at K8MR's QTH, which went over pretty well.)

Although the meeting ended about 10:30, a few of us sat around for another hour talking about strategies and station layouts for multi-single in CQWW. Dan, K1TO invited me to come and spend the night at his QTH with the promise of some antenna sightseeing the next day. After returning my rented minivan to the airport, we made it home by 0530Z. Inside the shack, Dan has two TS930S transceivers, plus AL-1200 and SB220 amplifiers. The stuff works - scanning the low bands produced lots of loud EU on 3.5 MHz, plus HF0POL at a true S7 on 160 meters.

The next morning I got to survey the K1TO antenna farm. Dan has a single 120' Rohn 25G tower, with a 204BA and a 155 BA on top. A Hy-Gain 402BA resides at the 90' level, fixed on Europe. At 60' there is a LTA 6L 10M beam on a rotary sidemount. Wire antennas take care of 160M, 80M, and the non-EU directions on 40M. The simplicity of Dan's antenna farm was surprising, considering how well he does in the DX contests. Certainly, being on the east coast helps, but the local terrain does him no favors, rising quite significantly to the northeast.

Next we hopped into Dan's car and drove out to see K1KI. Tom was out of town on business, but

his wife let us look around. His former location was in suburban Hartford, but now he has a gorgeous new QTH on a ridge outside of town with two towers. One tower is 100' high and rotates, carrying a 204BA for 14 MHz, plus 155BA and 105BA stacks for 21 and 28 MHz respectively. (Note: this tower is the one shown in the Product Review in the September 1991 issue of QST, page 37.) The second tower is 120' high, with a 205BA at 120', a 40-2CD at 130', and another 40-2CD fixed on Europe at 80'. The second tower also supports ground plane verticals for 40, 80, and 160. Since Tom has just recently moved in, the shack pretty much unfinished, but I'm sure the place will really work well once its done.

Our last stop was at the QTH of K1CC. Rich managed to win the 1990 CQWW CW contest from this QTH, so I was very interested to see what he had up. The K1CC antenna farm is a single 100' Rohn 45G with a 204BA, 4L Cushcraft 10, and a 6L KLM 15 on top, a 40-2CD on a rotary sidemount at 90', sidemounted 4L tribander for South America and simple wires for 80/160. That's it, no stacks, no rotator-busting 40 - simple enough to make a W8 weep. Inside, Rich has two TS930s, two Ten-Tec Titans, and two Alpha 77DX amplifiers (purchased from W1AW after the renovation). The station is set up perfectly for single operator efforts, with good ergonomics, station/antenna switching, etc.

Finally, it was time for the trip to the airport and home. During the ride, Dan and I discussed our individual contest clubs. I was curious to know how Murphy's Marauders related to YCCC. Dan said that many MM members were also YCCC members who submitted scores for YCCC in the big contests like CQWW. For contests such as SS, they submitted for Murphy's. I got the impression that the "grass roots" comraderie provided by Murphy's was very important to these guys, since it is a "local" club in a sense, and most of YCCC was several hundred miles away in MA, NH, etc. Dan was also very interested in hearing about our relationship with the NCC.

As I bid goodbye to Dan at the Hartford airport, I could not help pondering what I had seen and experienced in the past few days. I have little use for the preening and posturing that we see today from some of contesting's elite. Yet here I was in the virtual center of the amateur radio universe, visiting a club and fellow contesters that made me feel right at home. My hat is off to the gang at

Murphy's Marauders - you'd certainly feel right at home in MRRRC country.

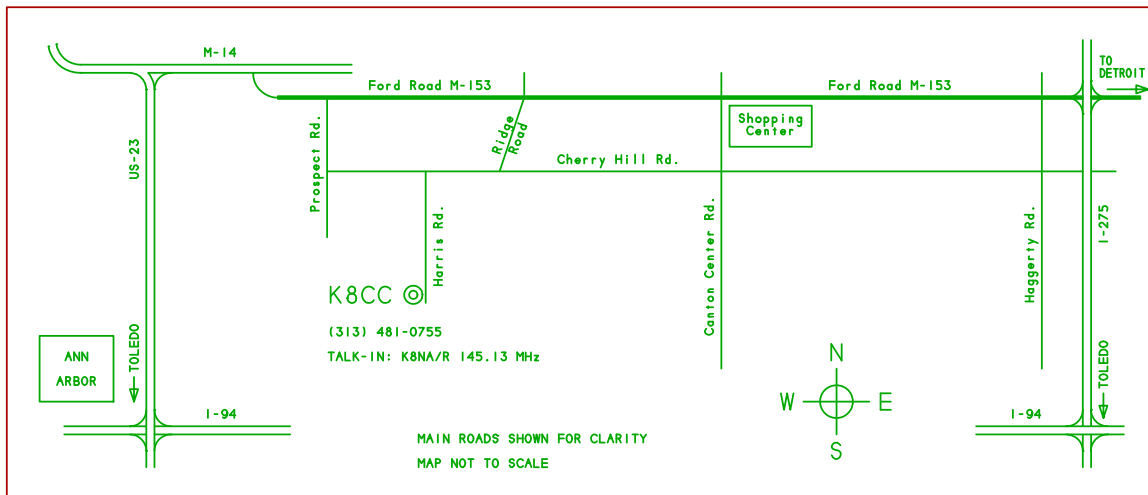
MAD RIVER MEETING AT K8CC

The next meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be at the QTH of Dave Pruett, K8CC, on Sunday, February 14, 1993, from 1:00 PM until ????. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Come see the K8CC station as it prepares for the multi-multi wars in ARRL DX CW.

The club acknowledges that this is Valentine's Day. We apologize that we could not find a better date, but the two ARRL DX Contests are coming up, plus we wanted to avoid interfering with the CQ 160M SSB Contest.

Club members should keep in mind their eligibility requirements for ARRL Club Competition, which says that you must attend two meetings in the previous 12 months prior to a contest. MRRRC wants to make a big effort for ARRL DX, and this is a good chance to make another meeting.

DIRECTIONS TO K8CC



From the east:

Take I-275 to Ford Road (M-153) west. From the first stoplight (Haggerty Rd.) proceed 4 miles to Ridge Road and turn left (south). Proceed for one mile to Cherry Hill Road and turn right (west). Proceed 2½ miles to Harris Road and turn left (south). Proceed for ½ mile to K8CC on the right side.

From the west:

Take US-23 to M-14 east. The first exit will be Ford Road (M-153) east. Proceed to the third traffic signal which is Prospect Road and turn right (south). Proceed for one mile to Cherry Hill Road and turn left (east). Proceed for one mile to Harris Road and turn right (south). Proceed for ½ mile to K8CC on the right side.

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