



FLASH

MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB



April/May 1993

Editor: Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC

April Fool's!

Well, its that time of year again, the contest season is all but over and our thoughts turn to Dayton. What with all the hospitality suites, dinners, forums, new products, and the flea market, what else could any self respecting HAM think about? Getting to see old friends, and finnally meeting new ones that, up 'til now, you had only QSO'd with, is part of the allure of a trip to HAM MECCA. Dayton is also important to MRRC members. It's the time that the Mad River's own railroad comes to town, and leaves carrying new or re-elected club officers. It's also the end, and start of our fiscal year, meaning that dues are due. And of coarse We host one of those hospitality suites, which can always use another bar tender or two. So, if you can, come on down (or up) to Dayton, and join the rest of the Fool's. You'll have a great time!

From the 'Big Fish'

By Steve Miller, WD8IXE

Yes, I know it's that time of year when hams begin asking about floor space. With Hara Arena located in my backyard (in the relative sense that is - it would be nice to have a back yard stretching 15 miles!!!), its easy to tell when Hamvention time is near. Outside of operating contests, the Hamvention, along with the multitude of social activities it generates, marks the major event on the Mad River calendar. This year, the first annual contest dinner at Stouffer's will provide contesters with a new event making the festivities better than ever. And don't forget about the suites, which are always events unto themselves.

Plans for the MRRC suite are well underway, Mike, AA8FE, has nearly all the bartending time slots filled - I'll see you there.

Don't forget the Dayton MRRC club meeting is Hamvention Saturday at 12:00 above the Cushcraft booth. Club elections will take place plus a bit more. Also, 1993 dues are due - MRRC membership is still only \$7 so make sure you have that much left over after spending your (or your family's) money on all the nifty, new stuff or flea market junk that you just can't pass up.

On the contest front, the ARRL DX, CQ 160 SSB, and WPX SSB contests provided plenty of action for the last couple of months. There were some fine MRRC scores posted once again and some new personal bests. Congratulations to Tim, KE8OC, operating the K8CC station who did a great job in his first serious S/O effort. Other new personal bests were logged as well as a fine ARRL DX SSB score from the KW8N M/S crew despite serious icing problems which rendered several of their antennas useless until Saturday afternoon. Check out the score rumors elsewhere to see who did what. Comparing scores from last year it's easy to tell 10 meters is on the way out. Anyone operating the high band contests certainly noticed the waning of Sol's spots. Time to prepare for the low bands.

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ARRL DX SSB

NA8V	21	19	
	107	50	
	85	49	
	542	97	
	906	105	
	<u>446</u>	<u>87</u>	
	2107	407	2,572,647
K8GL	1373	390	1,587,618
N8ATR	1259	457	1,726,089 +Pac.
K8CC(KE8OC)	1199	390	1,402,830 "
K8MR	1174	387	1,363,014 "
WB8OHO	?	?	435,000 Lo Pwr
N8CQA	160	101	48,480 +Pac.
N8ET	131	91	35,763
N8JMN @ K8AQM	930	366	1,023,930 M/M
KW8N(+NZ4K, KU8E)	31	27	
	130	63	
	124	68	
	653	114	
	799	119	
	<u>626</u>	<u>119</u>	
	2363	510	3,615,390 M/S

WPX SSB

KP2A(KW8N)	89		
	725		
	1359		
	2091		
	<u>1881</u>		
	6145	1007	16,730,298
WD8LLD(KF8TY)	974	574	1,070,000 20M
K8DD	248	248	150,288
N8CQA	235	163	96,170 QRP
WD8AUB	115	107	28,000 20M
KT8X	40	40	5,320
AA8U	182		
	78		
	688		
	1599		
	<u>133</u>		
	2680	893	5,617,863 M/O
NE8T	247		
	82		
	512		
	1222		
	<u>286</u>		
	2399	837	4,403,457 M/O

The next major operating events include WPX CW in May and Field Day in June. Now's the time to start strategizing for the MRRRC Field Day challenge. For those who can't get enough OT (operating time), other contests (such as CQM or the VHF contests) are looming on the horizon as well. Perhaps one of the VHF enthusiasts could contribute a Flash article on the different aspects of VHF contesting which seems to be growing within the MRRRC ranks.

See you in Dayton and Go Mad River!!

Big Fish continued...

The Mad River Club Championship
 By Jim Stahl, K8MR

Back in 1990 I made a proposal for a club championship based on the weighted scores in a number of contests over a year's time. This means each score as a percentage of the U.S. winning score times a maximum point number reflecting the importance of the contest. I proposed, but did not take the job of administering it because my computing hardware at the time was a C-64.

Nothing much happened with the championship since then, but I did move up in the computer world to a 386SX. More recently I acquired Lotus 1-2-3 and decided that the club championship would give a good exercise to learn the program. So after all these years, here are the results!

With a couple of minor changes from the original proposal, these are the basic rules. The ARRL DX and CQWW are worth 2000 points maximum for each mode; SS 1000 points; WPX (each mode), IARU, ARRL 10 meter, and all 160 contests are 750 points; each NA Sprint and NA QSO Party 200 points (each mode). Multi op scores are divided among active MRRC members (K5GO or KB8XYZ don't get a share), with an extra share for the station owner.

These results are not guaranteed to be absolutely accurate: I started with a 2 year old roster, adding those newer members who show up enough on the net, etc., to register in my mind. If you got left out, sorry, but make your presence more known and I'll remember you next time. It's also possible that in the 50 or so contests I went through I flat out missed a score or two, especially for DXpedition scores or operations with wierd calls.

And the winner for both 1990-91 and 1991-92 is Dave Pruet, K8CC. Actually the 91-92 results aren't totally complete; the 92 CW WPX results are still out as of this writing. Dave combined some good DX single op scores with the station owner shares of his multi-multis to do the trick. Second in 90-91 was K8MR on the strength of single/assisted efforts in the DX tests and a good number of modest scores in lots of other contests. WD8IXE pulled second in 91-92, largely on some top notch efforts from KW8N. Noteable was AA8AV who placed third in 91-92; Ken did a lot of solid single op efforts to pile up the points. Finally at tip of the hat to Walt, K8CV, who gets the award for operating and entering the most contests.

There is still time put on a strong kick to the 92-93 finish line, as the year will run through the September 1993 Sprints. I hope this championship might provide some motivation to stir up more club activity in the various contests. See you in the pileups!

THE CHAMPS

CQWW 90 - SPR 9/91		CQWW 91-SPRINT 9/92
K8CC	4933	K8CC
K8MR	3768	WD8IXE
WD8LLD	2903	AA8AV
KU8E	2260	K8MR
N8CXX	2239	NZ4K
K8GL	2191	KW8N
K8DD	2002	K8GL
W8FN	1969	WD8LLD
WD8IXE	1859	KU8E
K8MJZ	1774	W8FN
NZ4K	1621	K8MJZ
KW8N	1617	N8ET
WD9INF	1483	K8DD
NZ8O	1427	N8ATR
W8UA	1361	NA8V
WD8AUB	1357	NZ8O
AA8AV	1321	K8MFO
K8CV	1259	AA8FE
N8CQA	1250	WD8AUB
K8AQM	1223	W8UPH
N8ET	1174	KN8Z
N8EA	1150	K8CV
KE8OC	1127	KF8QE
AC8W	1107	AC8W
K8JM	938	AF8A
W8UPH	920	WA8OSE
WD8IJP	842	N8CQA
W8IQ	779	N8JEC
AA8FE	715	W8UA
AF8A	625	N8EA
KN8Z	548	W8IQ
KT8X	512	KC8MK
WB8WTS	448	K8JM
NE8T	430	WB8WTS
N8JEC	429	WX8T
W8WD	419	N8CXX
AA8U	329	WA8RRR
WX8T	309	WD9INF
WA8RRR	259	KE8OC
N8BTU	225	VE3RIK
KN8S	225	NE8T
N8HTT	167	K8AQM
AD8C	21	N8BTU
K8MFO	12	N8HTT

WA8OSE

10

AA8U
W8WD
KT8X

269
251
1

Operating and Contesting from Japan

By Ted Rachwal, K8AQM/7J3ABO

After living and operating in Japan for a year, many people have asked me what it's like to operate as a JA. It was "GREAT"! I had a wonderful time and just recently sent in my application for CW DXCC and Mixed DXCC.

First, a short description of the shack and equipment is necessary so that you understand the operating environment. The antenna was a Hygain 14AVQ which was mounted off my second-story balcony. I was lucky because the roof of my building was flat metal and I simply tied the base to the roof....gave a nice ground for 180 degrees! I had a 42 foot trapped 40/15 dipole that ran from the high end at 20 feet to the low end at 8 feet. The equipment inside consisted of an ICOM-721(725 here) and later an ICOM-760Pro(765 here). The station ran EXACTLY 50 watts which was the limit of my licence. To run 100 watts, you had to have an inspection by the Japanese FCC types, which was an encounter I thought best to avoid. So there it is, considerably less than I'm use to using here but I was just happy to be QRV.

I did two types of operating while in Japan; I sought the DX and wanted to come away with DXCC with my 7J3ABO call sign and I wanted to try the domestic 40 meter band and try for the equivalent of the JA WAS as well as several other JA awards. The DXing was like dxing before I had any type of station here at home. The same good operating procedures that you use to work DX here will also catch the DX there; well timed calls and sharp ears bring home the catch as a JA DXer just as they do for a W8. My call, I thought, would net me a few extra db since it's not everyday one hears a 7J3...wrong! Most good DXers recognize the 7J3 for what it is...another JA. When the openings were there I did manage to run a few small pile-ups with the EU gang who chase WPX. After all, I was the only 7J3 in all of Japan who was operating. I managed to take some time and operate in the CQWW CW and due to the lack of other serious entries I managed to end up in "bold print" for the all band high JA3 score...this was a total surprise to me and I'm still waiting for Mr. K1AR to send me my certificate which I will proudly display here in the shack. In the chase, I managed to finish with 147 countries for my 10 months of on the air time and meager station. I should add that my station was considered QRO and the antenna very high profile by the local JA boys of Moriyama in Shiga(thats like Adrian in MI).

Most interesting and suprising was contesting in the domestic contests which usually takes place on 40 meters, although they are all band affairs. To truly understand what contesting domestically is like, let me compare Japan to the geography of the United States. Japan would run roughly north and south from Maine to central Florida and east to west dimensions would be from the Appalachian Range to the Atlantic; in otherwords, a long strip equal to our east coast. Moriyama, the city I lived in was at the latitude of Atlanta, GA(see the map at the end of this artical). Imagine what operating on 40 meters with a dipole, at least 3db more power(my 50 watts vs the usual 10-25 watts), with a more efficient antenna(my shorty 40 vs the common vertical or mobile whip used by most apartment JAs) and with my Kansas City keyer and it's functions(most JAs use either a standard keyer or bug!) would do to improve the odds? I think the biggest drawback was my call sign. In most cases my call was incorrectly copied as 8J3 which is the JA designation for a special events station or if it was copied correctly it caused great consternation and fear in the JA contester! Anyway, to make a long story short, I was able to do quite well in the local domestic contest area. My greatest regret was the fact that I didn't get to operate a second contest season, I'd have killed them! It was absolutly great to run continuously building pile-ups of JAs who wanted to work the 7J3 prefix and get the 100% QSL... and to do it with 50 watts and the short dipole!

As most of you know, Japan does not have sections since the entire country of Japan is only slightly larger than Michigan. Japan assigns something like a zip code for each city/village called either the JCC or JCG number depending if the area is a city or village. My JCC number was 2307 and I was the only kid in town who operated CW. Needless to say, I was very popular and everyone wanted to QSL both for the prefix and the "rare" JCC number. I was even plagued with requests for my JCC from many W6 stations that I worked!

I'll save the stories of trying to operate domestic 40 meter SSB and speak Japanese to carry the QSO for another artical here in THE FLASH. Let it be clear, I only managed a handful of Japanese QSOs and it was an extremely humbling experiance for me. I hope you all have an oportunity sometime to operate for an extened period of time either in Japan or some other ham-populated country, I'd like to compare experiences. So for now...domo arigato...ja mata!

FCC TO AUCTION SPECTRUM TO AMATEURS

In an unexpected offshoot of various ideas to auction segments of the radio spectrum to the highest bidder, amateurs may soon find themselves in the position to do the bidding. According to sources in Washington the FCC is working on plans to open previously forbidden frequencies in or near the amateur bands to hams willing and able to pay the price.

In a closed door meeting on April 1, the Commission tentatively decided to conduct a trial in October and November 1993. The highest bidders will be given authorization to use specific frequencies just below the normal U.S. phone subbands on 15 and 20 meters. These were selected because they involve existing international amateur allocations, and unlike the lower frequency bands, little split frequency operation takes place. These bands would be split into 15 two KHz channels on 20 meters (14120 - 14150 KHz) and 25 channels on 15 meters (21150 - 21200). Minimum bids will be \$50/hour per channel. A ham may buy only one channel per band, and initially for a maximum of 24 hours per weekend. Any ham could answer a CQ and have a QSO with the authorized station, but any attempt to "steal the frequency" would constitute an out of band violation.

If the trial is successful the FCC is looking to expand the program to include frequencies outside the present ham bands. Staff within the FCC has approached the ITU as well as several European countries about such possibilities. Lightly used frequencies just below 7, 14, and 21 MHz are prime candidates, although ITU approval would be required. Sources say the ITU is favorably inclined provided a significant portion of rental income go to international charities or relief organizations. On each band up to 100 CW channels of 500 Hz bandwidth could become available under such an international auction.

FCC officials likened the concept to the national parks, with the normal bands being the park land proper, and the leased frequencies the land just outside the park boundaries. This action is an attempt to open that land to compatible development with the public reaping the profits of the development.

The details of the bidding procedure have not yet been developed. The FCC says that it has absolutely no plans to auction any frequencies within the present amateur bands to any nonamateur user.

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