FLASH
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

Dayton Edition 1993 **Editor: Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC**

This is MRRC Country!

Welcome to Mad River country! Mad River is a medium sized contest club that services Ohio, Southern Michigan, and small parts of Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. Our main activities are centered around contesting and DXing. Our fiscal year starts and ends at the Dayton Hamvention meeting at which time our annual $7.00 dues are due. This money is used to defray the cost of publishing 'The FLASH' and covering the Hospitallity suite at Dayton.

OK, enough of the sales pitch. The rest of this edition is dedicated to the writing talents of some of our members, who's articals have appeared in the FLASH over the past year.

THE MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB

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Field Day 1992: 1B

by Doug Klein, WD8AUB

The last full weekend in June marks one of my favorite contests. Alot 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

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

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 indictor 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 noquestion 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, starry nights and the ever present whir of the FD generator..... CU next year from Delaware County, Ohio.

DXpedition to Hilton Head Island

by Jim Stahl K8MR

A sunspot cycle or so ago vacation meant for me packing up the radios and hopping an airplane to some warm island to operate a DX contest from the good end. That, however, was between wives and before children. Today vacation involves scheduling around school vacations and summer camp, and driving the family minivan. For the past few years the destination has been Hilton Head Island, an warm island with palm trees, albeit a half mile off the South Carolina mainland.

Also for the past sunspot cycle or so, I've been a casual participant in VHF contesting, playing around on 2 meter SSB with 10 watts. My move in 1987 to a 400 feet higher QTH helped my scores, but to improve my VHF scores the obvious plan was to add more bands. I had not been on 50 MHz since my high school days on AM in the mid sixties, but it seemed like the logical band to add to my present setup.

Last winter we decided that August in the Carolinas may be nice for the beach and swimming pool, but it is just too hot for land based activities such as tennis. The only other suitable time was just after school ended in June, which we decided to do. We reserved the same condo we had stayed in the previous year for the second week of June.This just happened to be starting the Saturday of the June VHF QSO Party, which is the yearly highlight of six meter activity. The map of grid squares showed that Hilton Head's grid, EM-92, to be about half water,and include the city of Savannah and lots of sparsely inhabited land (at least compared to northeast Ohio). More important, it was the right distance for E-skip to New York, Chicago, and Texas. The condo, a two floor unit on a golf course with open space from northeast to southwest and with several trees nearby, seemed compatable with radio antennas. A plan was beginning.

Acquiring a six meter radio is not a trivial matter. One can go out and spend $1500 or so for a top of the line ICOM or YAESU 28-50 MHz duobander, spend $1500 for a middle grade HF transceiver with a 6M add-on, or find someone selling a 20 year old vacuum tube radio. I fortunately able to do the latter in the form of a TR-6 from K8MFO.

I picked up the radio in mid May. My wife had reacted negatively to previous interest in a different radio, so this one I carefully brought in when she wasn't around and set it on my radio table in the basement. I don't think she has to this day realized I acquired a new radio. But then she could buy lots of earrings that I would never notice either.

I then began working on antennas. When asked I said it was for Field Day. My first effort was with a PVC spreader 2 element quad. It had a fine SWR but was about 4 S-units below my PRO-67A HF antenna. I then proceeded to a simple dipole using the PVC for mechanical support. I could pull this one up a tree with a single string, and use a second string to rotate it 90 degrees. Signals were no worse than the quad, so I decided to keep it simple and take the dipole.

I used my position as chief minivan packer to see that the power supply went safely under the rear seat, the antennas at the bottom of the pile behind the rear seat, and the box with the TR-6 under other boxes and bags. It worked until we were repacking the first morning out after a stop at my sister's home in Pittsburgh. Linda asked what that unfamiliar box was, and I replied that it was some radio stuff. She grumbled about taking radio stuff on vacation, but asked no more and was told no more.

Saturday at 2pm, the starting time of the contest, we were about 40 miles from Hilton Head when I decided that explaining the contest could wait no longer. I said that the time spent would depend on conditions, but would not involve a round the clock operation, and that once the contest was over I could pack up the radios for the duration without complaining.

When we arrived the condo was not yet ready, so we went grocery shopping. At 4:30 we finally checked in and completely unloaded the van. I then quickly hooked the antenna to the rig in the 2nd floor bedroom but heard no signals so went to play tennis with Linda. After tennis she and the kids stayed at the pool, but I returned to put up the antenna.

Between golfers putting on the nearby green,I threw the weight and string about 25 feet into the closest tree, about 50 feet from our patio. I pulled the coax to the patio, set up the TR-6 on a small glass table, and took a listen. Eureka, signals! I hastily hooked up a hand held mike, grabbed the logsheets (yes, paper!), and gave a call. VE2XX came back and I was on my way. I called a few more guys, and then found a frequency and started CQing, and actually had people coming

back. The northeast from Maryland north was booming in, along with

'DXpedition' continued

Texans and the upper midwest. The pileups were not to be confused with Carribean pileups in a DX test, but I was working folks.

Linda and the kids meanwhile returned and fixed supper. I avoided going inside to eat, so had shrimp and corn on the cob between logging in the QSOs. I also hooked up the keyer (the famous K8MR random dot-dash generator) and had surprising success on code, with perhaps 50 qsos, including a lot of new grids. The band stayed good until 11 pm or so, when there were still signals coming in though many calls to midwestern stations were ignored in favor of W0's and 7's that I couldn't hear a trace of. I was up about 7 am Sunday morning. I h2eard some of the big guns in the northeast on scatter, and also some 5's and 0's on skip. I worked several Carribean stations including HH2PV, KP2A, KP4BZ, 6Y5IC, and KA3B\VP5. Linda dragged me to the tennis court at 9am for an hour. When I returned the northeast was coming in, which gave me 40-45 per hour rates for a few hours. It was a very directional opening, with nothing west of about Rochester, NY. I kept at it through the early afternoon though the band became worked out and never did open to the midwest. By late afternoon it was down to a few signals on the band, and it never got any better. My last 2 QSOs were at 2014 and 2200Z.

I finished with 263 QSOs in 90 grids. It turns out that this was probably the best 6M opening in several years. WB0DRL in Kansas reported just over 1000 QSOs on 6. My QSOs were geographically uneven: 80 1's and 60 2's, but just 20 8's and 10 9's. The black hole does exit! Only 6 qsos were on groundwave. My results may not have been spectacular, but it was fun passing out a relatively scarce grid. (There was a station in Savannah on passing out QSOs from the same grid, so I wasn't totally rare.)

About 9 am Monday I glanced out the bedroom window and saw a truck parked on the golf course path and a guy pulling a bundle of coax toward our patio. The dipole and the strings to support and steer it were gone. I decided I didn't really want to talk to this guy, so I let him proceed uninterrupted. He left the coax outside the door and left. Maybe he was a spy from Cushcraft, but I guess they just don't like antennas in their trees! But I didn't want to be told that, as I may be back next year, same time, same place. See you!

FCC Spectrum Auction to Amateurs

By Jim Stahl, K8MR

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 frequenies 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 possiblilities. 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 compatable 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.

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

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 rennovation). 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 MRRC country.

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 proceedures 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 suprise 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 finnish 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. 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!) woud 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 opertunity 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!

MRRC Score Rumors

By Jim Stahl, K8MR

ARRL DX CW

KW8N(WD8IXE)	27	22	
	127	46	
	334	75	
	610	83	
	753	89	
	212	75	
	2063	390	2,413,710
NA8V	25	21	
	101	42	
	306	71	
	666	82	
	501	90	
	235	64	
	1834	360	1,980,720
K8GL	23	16	
	85	41	
	166	73	
	501	84	
	566	80	
	266	75	
	1607	369	1,778,949
WB8OHO	1152	262	905,472 M/S
K8MR	448	224	301,056 S/O+P
WA8OSE	305	221	202,215 "
W8SH	166	84	41,832 M/S
N8ET	46	38	5,244
WD9INF	48	29	4,176 160M
WD8LLD	39	28	
(+NZ4K,KU8E,	104	45	
W8FN,WD8AUB,	293	84	
KF8TY,N8JEC,	895	88	
AF8A)	651	90	
	274	81	
	2256	416	2,815,488 M/2
K8CC	28	20	
(+N8CC,K8DD,	180	56	
W8UA,N8CQA,	635	101	
KF8QE,AA8UA,	1372	113	
WA8RRR,WX3M)	1044	109	
	366	85	
	3625	484	5,263,500 M/M

CQ 160 SSB

N8ATR	903	70	139,468
AA8U	641	68	97,000
WD9INF	452	55	55,220
K8MR	159	43	15,220
K8CC	107	39	9,126
N8CQA	38	18	1,476
K8DD	7	6	84
WD8IXE	6	2	24
WR8C	1014	75	170,000 M/O

NA 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

ARRL DX SSB

NA8V	21	19	
	107	50	
	85	49	
	542	97	
	906	105	
	446	87	
	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,	31	27	
KU8E)	130	63	
	124	68	
	653	114	
	799	119	
	626	119	
	2363	510	3,615,390 M/S

CQ 160 CW

WD9INF	718	80	137,760 M/O

WPX SSB

KP2A(KW8N)	89		
	725		
	1359		
	2091		
	1881		
	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		
	133		
	2680	893	5,617,863 M/O
NE8T	247		
	82		
	512		
	1222		
	286		
	2399	837	4,403,457 M/O

NAQP SSB

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

NA SPRINT SSB

KW8N	276	51	14,076
K8CC(KE8OC)	170	38	6,460
KF8QE	11	9	99

MRRC Score Rumors... continued

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	

CQWW SSB

NA8V	23	11	17		
	126	12	52		
	190	22	72		
	616	35	106		
	673	34	110		
	655	32	99		
	2283	146	454	3.90Meg	S/O
W8FN (KU8E)	997	33	136	475,735	15m
N8CQA	317			119,448	Apwr
KF8TY	251	54	124	113,564	Apwr
AC8W	159	26	73	41,006	40m
K8DD	65	36	59	14,820	
NP2E (KW8N)	3902	36	146	1,795,248	15m
WD8LLD (WD8AUB)	21	5	15		
	43	12	32		
	65	22	55		
	217	33	101		
	213	31	112		
	453	32	130		
	1012	135	445	1,625,740	+Pac.
K8MR	948	115	364	1,262,165	+Pac.
WA8OSE	647	112	362	842,000	"
K8MFO	501	106	273	531,737	"
AA8U	2673	153	541	5,071,058	M/S

CQWW CW

NA8V	2366	163	433	4.0Meg	S/O
K8GL	17	7	11		
	91	18	45		
	198	29	86		
	431	37	107		
	512	33	106		
	510	30	89		
	1759	154	444	3.027,674	S/O
KW8N (NZ4K)	1544	39	142	??	20m
K8MFO	1092	37	128	520K	15m
AA8AV	499	110	240	476,700	A Pwr
WX8T	794	32	96	281,600	15m
N8CQA	233	74	116	113,810	A Pwr
W8IQ	168	29	69	46,550	Q 20m
K8MR	1332	147	415	2,150,212	+Pac
KF8QE	1269	118	271	1.33Meg	"
W8FN	69	43	65	21,168	"
WD8LLD (+KU8E,	39	13	29		
WD8AUB,W8XN,	64	20	55		
KF8TY,W0PG)	469	34	113		
	505	38	122		
	484	33	114		
	440	32	106		
	2001	170	539	3,978,908	M/O

ARRL SS CW

KW8N (WD8IXE)	1171	77	180,334
W8FN	969	76	147,288
AA8AV	858	77	132,132 A Pwr
K8MR	826	76	125,552
K8DD	728	77	112,112 A Pwr
WD8LLD	670	77	103,180
KF8QE	618	75	92,700 A Pwr
WD9INF	325	71	46,150
KU8E	300	70	42,000
WD8IJP	226	66	29,832
N8CQA	216	?	?
KE8OC	160	55	17,600 A Pwr
W8EDU(+AF8A, WB8WTS,N8ARD)	799	77	123,046 M/O
WD8AUB(+KF8TY)	610	77	93,940 M/O

ARRL SS SSB

KF8QE	1261	77	194,194
AA8AV	1211	77	186,494 A Pwr
K8MR	789	77	121,506
W8EDU(AF8A)	545	74	80,660
AC8W	360	77	55,440
AA8FE	209	71	29,678 A Pwr
K8DD	303	47	28,482
N8CQA	190	71	26,980 QRP
WD8AUB	136	43	11,696
KE8OC	133	40	10,640
K8AQM	107	44	9,416
KW8N	2069	77	318,626 M/O

ARRL 160

K8CC(AA8AV)	1183	82	196,472 S/O
WD8LLD	440	70	56,980 "
K8MR	190	62	23,746 "
W8FN	173	57	19,722 "
N8CQA	173	44	15,224 Low Pwr
WD8AUB	161	42	13,524 S/O
KN8Z	1418	99	280,764 M/O
AA8U	1084	79	172,220 M/S
KC8MK	1044	81	169,128 "

ARRL 10M

WD8LLD	1163	141	665,932 CW
WD8AUB	840	130	436,800 CW
AA8AV	725	119	347,000 CW LOW PWR
W8FN	270	100	108,000 CW
K8DD	200	74	59,200 CW
N8CQA	153	73	44,676 CW QRP
W8SH	100	54	21,600 CW
AA8U	2436	278	1,756,000 M/O MIXED
K8CC	2085	276	1,731,072 "

VHF SS

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

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