



FLASH

MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB



June/July 1993

MRRC CALENDAR

JULY 1

- Canada Day Contest

JULY 10-11

- IARU HF World Championship
- CQ WW WPX VHF Contest

AUGUST 7-8

- 2nd Annual KN8Z Barbeque/MRRC Meeting
- North American QSO Party - CW
- ARRL UHF Contest

AUGUST 14-15

- Worked All Europe Contest - CW

AUGUST 21-23

- North American QSO Party - SSB

SEPTEMBER 4-5

- All Asian DX Contest - SSB

SEPTEMBER 11-12

- N8ET MRRC Get-together/Findlay Hamfest
- North American Sprint Contest - CW
- ARRL September VHF QSO Party

SEPTEMBER 19

- North American Sprint Contest - SSB

OCTOBER 24

- USECA Hamfest/MRRC Meeting

From the 'Big Fish'

By Steve Miller, WD8IXE

Choo Choo!!! Wow! the MRRC railroad had quite a head of steam at Dayton this year. First, **Tim, KE8OC**, was unanimously elected as club treasurer while in Michigan (where he could not defend himself). Then, at the mere mention of the word president, the built-up momentum took control and the MRRC locomotive pushed through re-election of the Big Fish in record time (10 seconds or so). **Dave, K8CC**, also agreed to edit the Flash upon KE8OC's retirement. Thanks to Tim for doing a FB job on the Flash as well as **Ken, WD9INF**, for the service of counting the club's beans over the past few years.

Speaking of club beans, it looks like we lost a few hosting the hospitality suite this year despite the fine coordination efforts of **Mike, AA8FE**. The opening of the large suite downstairs and the emergence of the contest dinner have resulted in decreased traffic in the upstairs suites and hence, less beans are coming in. We are positioned to host the suite again next year however, we must find a way to cut our losses.

It's been awhile since my last Flash article and several contests have come and gone. MRRC was well represented in them all and some fine scores were posted. Operations took place in the WPX CW, VHF QSO Party, Field day, and probably a couple others. Check the score rumor listings. Some great MRRC scores (final results) were also printed during the past few months as well as a few decent efforts in the club competition. Hopefully we'll be able to improve further next season. On a personal note, I'm glad MRRC'er's wound up with several of the new SS plaques. Coming soon is the IARU championship, look for **Ted, K8AQM**, and friends as they trek to FP-land to post a big score --- get on and give them some QSOs!

Goats! Goats! Goats! --- Yes, **Doc, KN8Z**, has agreed to another (second) annual Goat Bash in August. Those who didn't make it last year missed out on a MRRC gathering so elaborate that several NCC members and DXers for miles around also decided to show up. Check the Flash for more details and for other upcoming meetings.

It was an honor to represent MRRC at the Dayton contest dinner last April. I was fortunate enough to be seated next to Contest Hall of Fame inductee, **Fred Laun, K3ZO** and held a series of interesting conversations on contest and ham radio topics throughout the evening. I and all who attended had a real enjoyable evening and I'd like to extend an extra thanks to those providing the rousing support when the Big Fish was introduced - By the way, you're stuck with me for another year. GO MAD RIVER!!!

73, Steve, WD8IXE

The FLASH is the official newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club, and is published six times per year in even-numbered months. Submissions of material for the FLASH are welcome, and may be sent to the editor at the address on the last page.

The Mad River Radio Club an ARRL-affiliated contest club centered on Findlay, OH and serving the surrounding states. Membership in MRRC is open to anyone. Dues are \$7 per year.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

As the result of the recent "railroad" (i.e. election of officers) at the Dayton Hamvention MRRRC meeting, I signed on to be the editor (or is it "idiotor"?) of our noble newsletter, the MRRRC FLASH. Our previous editor, Tim, KE8OC moves on to be club treasurer, where he will bring some of his computer skills to bear organizing some of the club's record-keeping. I want to publicly thank Tim for the fine job he did editing the FLASH over the past several years.

Under new management, there are some things that we plan to do to make the FLASH more timely and cost-effective:

FORMAT - Beginning with this issue, we will be printing the FLASH in a folded two-page format. We think this makes the newsletter easier to read, and eliminates a stapling operation. By moving the list of officers to the mailing page, we have 3½ pages for articles and stuff. Meeting announcements and maps will be added as inserts as necessary.

We have also been looking closely at the format of other club newsletters. To be more efficient with our use of a printed page, we have narrowed the margins to provide more space for text. Also, we went to a font size to conserve space.

SCHEDULE - The deadline for each "Flash" will be the first day of even-numbered months, with the goal to have the newsletter in the member's hands by the middle of each even-numbered month. (This first issue is late due to the inertia of the transition). This will cause newsletters to come out immediately prior to ARRL DX (February), Dayton (April), Field Day (June), Findlay (August), CQWW (October), and Christmas (December). We will be sure to include maps and announcements for upcoming MRRRC meetings.

CONTENT - There are several features that I hope to include in each issue. It's important to have an update from the "Big Fish", some verbage from me about the newsletter, plus treasurer reports as appropriate. Contest scores will be published as collected on 3825 (otherwise, its up to you to get them to K8MR or K8CC). The MRRRC Calendar should serve to keep everyone aware of upcoming events of interest. Member Profile will focus on one member each issue, showcasing their station and operating interests. Finally, the August issue will contain the current MRRRC Roster.

MRRRC exchanges newsletters with several other contest clubs, and we occasionally use items from these in the pages of the FLASH. However, most of the content of this newsletter must come from YOU, the membership. We receive very few items to print - so PLEASE make it a point to start submitting stuff for the FLASH. Don't be afraid if your copy, illustrations, etc. are not pretty - we are able to fix it up here. Also, if writing is not your bag, just let me know the details and I can write it up for you.

73, Dave, K8CC

MRRRC CALLSIGN BADGES

Last summer, the club set out to design a MRRRC callsign badge, which were were introduced at last year's KN8Z barbeque (including a "special" badge for Doc...). Subsequently, an order was put together to fill member's requests for badges. There was some confusion in executing the order, due to people moving, changing jobs, etc. If you think you ordered a badge and did not receive it, please let the club know and we will see to it that the matter is taken care of.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC and Dave Pruett, K8CC

The current fiscal status of the Mad River Radio Club as of May 1993 is as follows:

INCOME:

Current balance reported by WD9INF:	\$391.65
Dues collected at Dayton '93 meeting:	\$208.00
Net cash receipts from Hospitality Suite:	\$360.00
Total:	\$959.65

EXPENSES:

Newsletter printing expenses owed to KE8OC:	\$150.00
Stouffer's balance for 1992 Suite owed to K8CC:	\$196.88
Stouffer's balance for 1993 Suite owed to K8CC:	\$393.76
Total:	\$740.64

These numbers indicate that we are solvent for the moment. On the plus side, 36 members (46%) paid dues at Dayton, so it is reasonable to expect that the rest will come through once reminded (get the hint?). On the minus side, Stouffer's requires an immediate deposit of \$175 if we wish to reserve Suite 425 for 1994. This amount, plus the \$50 to print this FLASH will pretty much deplete the club treasury.

Several factors have contributed to this situation. We spend approximately \$50 to produce an issue of the FLASH, or about \$300 per year. When we were a smaller club, we sometimes found ways to get the printing for little or nothing. We currently sponsor three ARRL contest plaques (ARRL DX 80 CW, ARRL SS Great Lakes Low Power CW and SSB) at a cost of \$50 each, or \$150 per year. In the past, we sponsored only one (ARRL DX 80 CW). Our other major expense, the Dayton Hospitality Suite, has historically cost the club around \$100 when all the bills are paid. These three items total \$550, which means that the club needs 79 paid members just to break even.

Fortunately, the current roster shows 78 paid members and the club sincerely thanks all for their support. However, we need to take action to ensure the fiscal viability of the club. Some ideas:

- Reduce printing costs for the FLASH. If anyone in the club has connections in printing, please let K8CC know.
- Seek member donations to support our involvement in the ARRL Plaque Program, or else terminate our support.
- Seek member donations to or commercial sponsorship to help with the MRRRC Dayton Hospitality Suite, or else find another club to join in with us. The only other alternative is to drop the suite.
- Raise dues.

The best solution may be a combination of the above, but NOW is the time to act before the situation deteriorates. A fiscally healthy club does not operate with zero margins, nor leaves itself vulnerable to changes in the size of its membership. Club fiscal matters will be on the agenda for the MRRRC meeting at KN8Z. Please be ready to come and contribute your ideas.

KE8OC has set up a checking account for the club, but Michigan law will not allow us to have an account in the name of the Mad River Radio Club without taking out a tax number (costing \$175 and requiring yearly tax returns!). The club checking account is in Tim's name, which requires checks to be made out to TIM O'SULLIVAN for club business. Please keep this in mind when renewing your dues.

CLUB DUES ARE DUE! All members should be aware that MRRRC dues are due as of the Dayton Hamvention meeting. If you have not paid, please send \$7 to KE8OC (see address on last page of this newsletter) as this is the last FLASH that unpaid members will receive. Please make all checks payable to **TIM O'SULLIVAN**, not MRRRC.

This issue contains a preliminary MRRRC club roster. If your name is shaded, then it means that according to our records, you have not paid your dues for 1993/94. Please check your information for correctness, and relay any changes to either KE8OC or K8CC. The "official" roster for 1993/94 listing all members paid as of August 1, 1993 will appear in the next FLASH.

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Congratulations to MRRRC member **Dennis Ward, KT8X**, who recently finished his engineering studies at Michigan State University. Dennis has accepted employment with Tecumseh Products Research Lab in Ann Arbor, MI, where he will have an apartment, and hopefully some antennas soon.

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A predominantly MRRRC crew led by **K8AQM** will be venturing forth on a DXpedition to the Saint Pierre & Miquelon Islands (FP). The group will leave on July 6, traveling to VE1 via car (thus saving \$600/head), and from there flying to FP-land. They plan to be QRV from July 8th thru 13th with monoband beams for 20/15/10, plus low band verticals, operating all bands including WARC and RTTY. They will also be active in the IARU contest signing FP/N8CC.

Operators: AA8U, K8AQM, KB8ECG, KB8OPT, KF8QE, KD0PF, N8CC, & N8TIB. QSL all QSOs via NU8Z.

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The Ohio State University club station **W8LT** was the recent beneficiary of some new equipment, courtesy of a past alumni. The club received a Yaesu FT-767, plus a FT-726R with RF Concepts 150W bricks for 6 and 2 meters. We expect MRRRC members **KU8E** and **NZ4K** to make good use of the new equipment.

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The MRRRC perseverance award for 1993 goes to **Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC**. Several years ago, Tim struggled against a restrictive zoning ordinance in the town of Canton, MI to put up a 40' tower and A4 tribander. A little over a year ago, Tim and his family decided to build a new home in the same city, and he had to go through the hassle all over again. The tower is back up, feedlines buried, and the tribander will go back up as soon as the sod is completed (some things DO take priority). It's interesting to note after all of this work, the new location of the tower is only a couple hundred yards from the old spot...

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WE HAVE A VIDEO STAR IN OUR MIDST - Congratulations go to MRRRC member **Doc Sheller, KN8Z** for being featured in the new CQ Magazine video **Getting Started in DXing**. In the video, Doc is one of several amateurs interviewed about DXing techniques. Also shown are several shots of the KN8Z antenna farm. Courtesy of **K8AQM**, MRRRC members had the chance to view the video at the February meeting.

MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

N8CQA 265-63-22,806 QRP
 AC8W 471-85-53,210
 K8DD 576-85-76,915
 K8CC 125-48- 6,912

CQ WPX CW

AC8W (+K8CC,K8DD,N8CQA) multi-single
 80 24
 40 206
 20 854
 15 263
 10 7
 tot: 1354 x 593 = 1,900,565

W8FN (+W8AUB,W8LLD) multi-single
 80 2
 40 232
 20 646
 15 765
 10 3
 tot: 1650 x 632 = 2,695,480

KW8N (+KU8E,NZ4K) multi-single
 2200 x 700 = 4.8 Meg

JUNE VHF QSO PARTY

K8MR/4 135-40 (50 MHz only)
 K8CC 165-41 (144 MHz only)
 K8MFO/rover
 600-400 +W8AUB
 K3UA 1283-283 +K3LR, KA2AEV, KR2J, KU8E, KZ2S,
 N2NT, NZ4K, W8IXE, WR3G

FIELD DAY

	CW	SSB	class	
K8MR	1044	899	1A	+W8LLD
W8TK	1300		1B	+W8AUB
W8LT/VE3				
	817	532	1A	W8IXE, KU8E, et al

FOR SALE

Cushcraft D3W WARC band rotatable dipole \$90
 Heathkit HDW-1780 Intellirator rotor controller \$115
 K8DR amplifier, pair of 3-500Z,
 full legal limit on 160M - 10M \$1000
 John Sullivan, KN8S (h) (313) 981-2641
 (w) (313) 322-4677

Sony 9" CGA (color) monitor and video card \$60
 Dave Pruet, K8CC (313) 481-0755 evenings

IN MEMORY OF WB8OHO

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

MRRRC lost a member and friend on June 13, 1993 when Craig Aronson, WB8OHO died in a tower accident. In the best spirit of amateur radio, Craig was helping a fellow ham by replacing a prop-pitch rotator relay on the tower at the 95' level when the safety strap on his climbing belt suddenly broke. He was killed instantly in the resulting fall.

Craig's passion in amateur radio was building antennas, and his antenna farm was testimony to his skills. Almost all of his antennas were homebrew, and he had a particular interest in quads, having built many different designs over the years. Last summer, a long-term project came to completion as a full size, rotatable, four element 7 MHz quad weighing over 600 pounds went into the sky at WB8OHO.

After several years away from serious contesting, Craig was becoming involved again and put the WB8OHO station on for both modes in the recent ARRL DX Contests. He was an active member of Mad River, the Southeast Michigan DX Association, as well as local amateur radio club activities near his home in Fowlerville, MI.

Craig worked as a lineman for the Detroit Edison power company, so his death is particularly tragic. The day of his funeral, yellow Detroit Edison work vehicles surrounded the funeral home, as his co-workers came to pay their last respects.

Craig Aronson was a good friend to many of us in the MRRRC, and he will be greatly missed. Craig is survived by his wife Evelyn, and children Cindy and Eric.

MEMBER PROFILE:

HANK KOHL, K8DD

Hank Kohl, K8DD is part of our northern MRRRC contingent, living and operating from Port Huron, MI. Originally licensed in 1956 as KN3DCB in Harrisburg, PA, Hank received W8GLC when he moved to W8-land, and later K8DD in 1977. He joined MRRRC in 1986.

The K8DD antenna farm boasts a 60' Rohn 25G holding a KT34XA tribander, a 40' aluminum tower with a HyGain 10/15 duobander, GAP and Butternut verticals for low band DXing, plus 80 and 40 dipoles for domestic contests. Inside, the RF comes from an ICOM IC-765 transceiver and Amp Supply LK500 linear amplifier. Computer logging is done on a 40 MHz 386DX computer, with a 10 MHz XT at the secondary position for multi-op efforts.

K8DD is also a PacketCluster™ node, running on a second 386DX-40 with users connecting on 146 and 222 MHz. K8DD links to other nodes of the Great Lakes PacketCluster System (GLPS) on 446 MHz via the AC8W-2 NETROM digipeater that Hank worked to have installed on a very high, remotely located county-owned tower.

Hank's main competitive interests in ham radio include contesting and DXing (preferably on CW). He has been on the "other end" of the DX QSO several times, operating from VP2MEH in 1979, VE2USA (CQWW zone 2) in 1984, and AH0/AC8W in 1992. Outside of contesting, K8DD is an ARRL Technical Advisor (TA), a Volunteer Exam Coordinator (VEC), and is involved with his local club.

Vocationally, K8DD is employed by Unisys Corporation. He is married with two children.

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