



FLASH

MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB



December 1993/January 1994

MRRC CALENDAR

JANUARY 8

- K8MR Christmas Party/MRRC Meeting
- North American QSO Party (CW)

JANUARY 15-16

- North American QSO Party (SSB)

JANUARY 21

- ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- CQ WW 160M DX Contest (CW)

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 6

- ARRL Novice Roundup

From the 'Big Fish'

By Steve Miller, WD8IXE

WHEW!!! there certainly has been quite a few MRRC contest QSOs since the last FLASH. Murphy showed up at my station for CQWW SSB as my 930 decided it didn't want to transmit anymore. Unfortunately, my backup rig suffered from the same malady so I was out of luck. I did listen for awhile and decided SWLers must be crazy -- I just wanted to fire up and make some QSOs. CW SS turned out much better as I had my best SS start ever at the helm of KW8N although the good start eroded with a below par Sunday. A limited effort was put in for phone SS as I had to pack and leave early Sunday for J6 but I stuck around for some more MRRC points.

CQWW CW was incredible as a part of the J6DX Multi-Single team. High rates, great low band conditions and sunny, 80 to 85 degree weather combined for an ideal contest/vacation.

Upon returning stateside, it took until mid-morning Sunday during the 160 contest before I could reassemble my station. I only made a few contacts (mostly with MRRC) with low power and my 75m inverted vee. As I write, the 10 meter contest is almost ready to start. If conditions were anything like the CQWW CW, QSOs will be hard to come by -- sure wish I could have stayed in J6 where the 10 meter conditions were more favorable. There sure was a high level of MRRC activity this season - glad to see MRRC well represented in my logs. I hope you had as much fun as I did filling up the contest logs/disks.

There were some strong MRRC results published over the past few months. A hearty congratulations to Jim, K8MR, and crew whose Field Day effort won **first place** in class 1A. Doug, WD8AUB, operating with W8TK wound up with a second place effort in class 1B - 2 op. After the FD warmup, Doug teamed up with Don, K8MFO, to win the rover crown in the June VHF QSO party. The CQ 160 contests also saw a solid MRRC effort as the club wound up in a respectable 4th place. Doc, KN8Z, & company was the #7 multi-op in the CW test (#4 USA) while the effort at WR8C organized by Jim, KC8MK netted the #5 multi-op spot on SSB (#4 USA). Pete, N8ATR, gutted out a single op on SSB and found the #7 USA slot for his efforts. Great job fellas!

They say good things come to those who wait, and I'm sure Ed, N8HTT, Randy, W8FN, and others would agree. Yes, after months of anticipation their MRRC badges have finally arrived. Thanks to Buck, N8CQA, for taking care of the latest badge order.

I recently talked with Mike, AA8FE, who offered to coordinate the MRRC Hospitality suite at Dayton this year. (It'll be time for Dayton before you know it!) Job commitments on Monday nights have prevented Mike from checking into the club net but he did ask to pass his regards to the rest of the MRRC contingent and to let you know he is still alive. For those of you not working Monday nights, check in with your fellow MRRCers on 3825 at 8:30 PM.

NEXT MRRC MEETING

The next meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be the annual Christmas Party on **January 8, 1993** (OK, so it's two weeks after Christmas) hosted by **Jim Stahl, K8MR**. A map to Jim's QTH is included in this newsletter. There will be lots of unofficial activities (often involving Chinese food...) before and after the party, so check the MRRC net for details.

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.

'Big Fish' (continued)

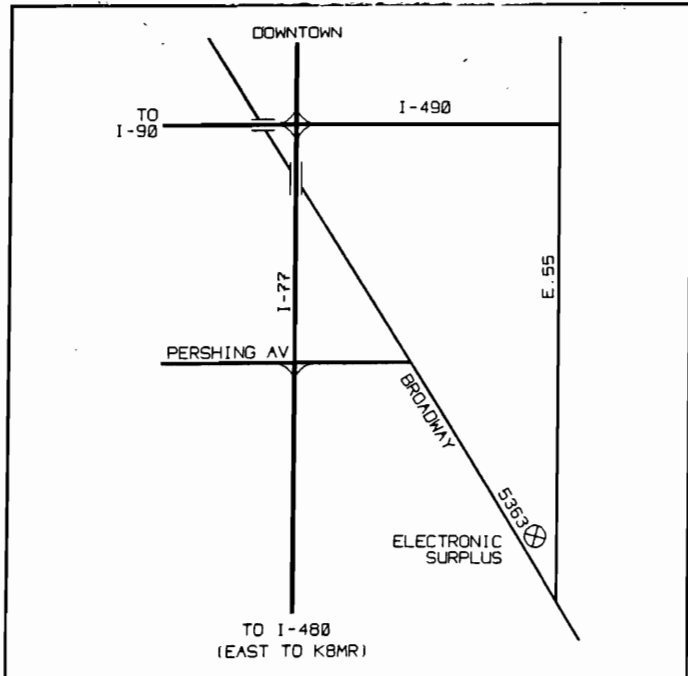
After the flurry of contest activity, it's time to catch our breath, celebrate our victories, curse Murphy, and, of course, plan for the next contest. The ideal opportunity to do it all and more will once again be at K8MR's annual New Year's MRRRC party. It will surely be **another fine evening of MRRRC camaraderie** along with some old friends now with the NCC. I hope to see you there.

Not much more to report from SW Ohio. I picked up a IC765 while my 930s were out of order and need to make some mods and get the computer interface on line. The 930s both transmit now but the microprocessor in one of them is getting flaky and less reliable. All I want for Christmas is for **Murphy to stay away!!!** The best of season's greetings to all and congratulations on a great fall contest season!

73, Steve, WD8IXE

ELECTRONIC SURPLUS, INC. RELOCATES

Some folks coming to the K8MR Christmas Party have included a stop at Electronic Surplus, Inc. (also known locally as Western Garbage) on their Cleveland itinerary. With the new Gateway Stadium complex being erected just a few blocks from their old downtown location, they cleared the way for the upcoming Yuppie sports bars by moving to a new site at 5363 Broadway Avenue, off I-77 a few miles south of downtown Cleveland. Saturday hours are 9AM - 3PM, and their new phone number is (216) 441-8500.



MAP TO ELECTRONIC SURPLUS NEW LOCATION

de K8MR

FROM THE EDITOR

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

Whew! At this point in the contest season, the contesting faithful are due for a huge, collective sigh of relief. We've been busy at K8CC - five major and one minor effort out of six contests in seven weekends. My hat is off to the various guest ops that have manned the operating chairs - a lot of points were generated for MRRRC.

As the result of all this contesting, a large part of this month's newsletter is devoted to scores. The data comes from various routes, mostly from the **MRRRC Monday Night Net**, via packet, and through the efforts of our club scorekeeper, **K8MR**. Of particular note are the Sweepstakes results, which show potentially **OVER FIVE MILLION POINTS** for the MRRRC score. By the time you read this, the official deadline will be passed, but **SEND YOUR LOGS IN ANYWAY!**

Mad River received an answer to my letter concerning the writeup of our victory in the ARRL DX Contest. I've included the letter in this newsletter so that perhaps someone in the club can figure it out - I sure can't. I suppose it serves to indicate that there was no malice involved on the part of the ARRL Contest Desk, however in my view, their response was predictable. I'm also disappointed that although both ARRL prez W4OYI and vice-prez K1ZZ (also a contester) were copied, neither saw fit to respond.

With all the contesting around here, this newsletter was put together rather hastily right at the deadline. My thanks to **K8MR** and **WD8IXE** for their contributions, and to **KE8OC** for the labels. But what about the rest of you? We need more stuff for the newsletter, and I know that there is interesting stuff going on in Mad River. In fact, I'm gonna go on record with some assignments. For **Bruce, A8BU**, we want to hear about your 80M quad, and for **Greg, K8GL**, we want to hear how you built a 80M four-square with only one tower and without the pricey CornTek switch box.

Over the years, MRRRC has built up a number of traditions and phrases to describe what it is we do. Probably most notorious was the GOOOOO MAD RIVER! battle cry from the infamous "asterisk" year of 1971. My personal favorite was the title "Department of Piscene Philosophy" that adorned the "Big Fish" column during the tenure of **Randy, W8FN**. Now, courtesy of **Bruce, A8BU** we have one more - while describing a minor CW effort from his station in the ARRL10M contest, he commented that "here's one more log in the river".

Here's to a MRRRC "log-jam" in 1994!

73, Dave, K8CC

CQ WW DX REMINDER

The CQ WW DX contest rules for the club competition has the requirement that groups submitting scores for the club competition must submit a list of claimed scores by members to be eligible. What this means is that in addition to putting **MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB** on the summary sheet, MRRRC must submit a list of scores for which the club claims credit. As of this writing, only **AD8C**, **K8MR**, **WD8LLD** and **W8FN** have passed their official scores to the club. **Dave, K8CC** is acting as the clearinghouse for this list, so get your final scores (as submitted, rough scores are not enough) to me ASAP. Please note that this applies to CQWW only.

MRRC SCORES

CQWW SSB

Single Operator

V26N (KW8N)	4729	131	440	2,188,128	15M	
K8MR	864	109	341	1,078,200	AB	
KA8D	650	91	262	613,161	AB	
N8JEC	868	35	128	377,019	20M	
WX8T	807	31	125	360,360	15M	
K8MFO	358	66	182	221,224	AB	
N8CQA	250	58	130	120,696	AB	100W
NZ8O	322	25	99	113,336	10M	

Single Operator Assisted

N8ATR	738	131	440	1,145,000	S/U	
K8DD	539	87	277	530,348	S/U	
K8CC	518	97	276	516,978	S/U	Without any CQs
N8HTT	441	86	232	386,688	S/U	
WU8A	263	44	140	128,800	S/U	
WD8AUB	169	40	99	65,052	S/U	
KT8X	168	43	87	56,550	S/U	

Multi-Operator

KG8CW	1438	135	445	2,201,100	M/M	The assembled horde @ K8AQM
W8FN	1472	143	496	2,486,349	M/S	+NZ4K, KU8E, KF8TY
AA8U	1261	130	352	1,584,000	M/S	
KB8VN	335	81	220	269,997	M/S	

SWEEPSTAKES

CW

K8CC	1218	76	185136	B
KW8N (WD8IXE)	1187	76	180424	B
W8FN	1048	76	159296	B
NZ8O	1000	75	150000	B
KF8QE	871	76	132392	B
AA8U	799	75	119850	B
K8MR	555	72	79920	B
KU8E	315	65	40950	B
N8ATR (K8MR)	284	60	34080	B
WA8OSE	116	67	15544	B

AA8AV	881	76	133912	A
WD8LLD	759	76	115368	A
K8DD	617	76	93784	A
K9ALP	417	66	55044	A
WD8IJP	375	71	53250	A
WU8A	297	73	43362	A
KE8OC	200	60	24000	A
N8ET	136	58	15776	A
AA8FE	141	55	15510	A

NZ4K	274	71	38908	Q	
N8CQA	177	69	24426	Q	
W8EDU	960	76	145920	B	+AF8A, WB8WTS
WD8AUB	907	76	137864	B	+packet

SSB

K8CC (WD8IJP)	1912	77	297448	B
KW8N (NZ4K)	1783	77	274582	B
K8MJZ	1600	77	246400	B
AA8U	1554	77	239316	B
KF8QE	1314	77	202356	B
N8ATR	1157	77	178178	B
K8MR	963	77	148302	B
KG8CW	937	75	140550	B
W8FN	531	77	81774	B
KB8VN	158	73	23068	B
N8HTT	147	73	21462	B

AA8AV	1099	77	169246	A
AA8FE	673	77	103642	A
WA8OSE	410	77	63140	A
WX3M	313	77	48202	A
WU8A	309	77	47586	A
KE8OC	306	74	45288	A
N8CQA	239	75	35850	A
KA8D	200	77	30800	A
KF8TY	148	58	17168	A
AF8A	103	48	9888	A

KG8CO	1234	77	190036	B	+KB8ECG
NT8V	1156	77	178024	B	+AC8W, K8DD
NU8Z	1061	77	163394	B	+packet
KG8EF	1000	77	154000	B	+K8AQM
WD8AUB	188	74	27824	B	+packet

Total: 49 entries for **5,135,240** points

MRRC SCORES

CQWW CW

K8MFO	1232	164	498	2,250,000	S/U				
K8MR	1057	123	342	1,407,555	S/O				
W8FN	472	30	107	184,950	15M				
NT8V	216	52	125	105,000	S/U, 100W				
WU8A	507	91	241	452,000	S/U				
NU8Z	300	80	195	225,000	S/U				
WD9INF	53	11	42	5000	160M				
K8GL	35	10	24						
single-operator	256	26	79						
	194	27	86						
	609	33	114						
	493	30	112						
	67	22	47						
	1654	148	462	2.862M					
J6DX	86	11	33		WD8LLD	65	18	53	+WD8AUB, KU8E, NZ4K, AF8A
multi-single	639	22	75		multi-single	204	27	88	
	1739	34	109			465	35	126	
	1469	32	107			796	35	128	
	1938	32	117			529	31	116	
	1467	28	87			63	24	60	
	7338	159	528	12.5M		2120	169	571	4,383,020
K8CC	97	16	46		+AA8AV, AA8FE, AA8U, AC8W, K8DD, K8MJZ, K8NA, KF8QE				
(multi-multi)	394	30	100		N8CC, N8CQA, W8UA, WA8RRR, WX3M				
	820	35	125						
	1115	38	133						
	802	33	123						
	211	24	71						
	3439	176	598	7,197,426					

ARRL 160M

K8CC (AA8AV)	1033	82	172,364	
W8FN	766	77	119,581	
K8MR	156	48	???????	
NT8V	170	41	14,063	
WD8AUB	140	37	10,360	
N8CQA	171	40	13,800	
KW8N	89	37	6,154	
WD8IXE	9	6	108	
WR8C	1188	87	210,366	KC8MK, NZ4K, et al
AA8U	1070	80	173,600	K8MJZ, WX3M, KF8QE, KF8DF
WD9INF	956	87	171,000	+W8IQ, N8AAT

ARRL 10M

K8CC (W8WD)	1528	111	339,216	SSB
WD8AUB	824	108	356,400	CW
WD8LLD	613	94	230,488	CW
AA8FE	466	119	135,184	Mixed, 100W
AA8AV	437	66	117,480	CW, 100W
AA8U	206	45	37,080	CW
K8MR	138	50	?????	Mixed, 100W
M8CQA	130	50	23,100	Mixed, QRP
W8FN	100	20	8,000	CW

Join the MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB net every Monday evening at 8:30 PM Eastern on 3825 Khz ± QRM.



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION

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QST

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

November 5, 1993

Dave Pruett, K8CC
2727 Harris Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Dear Dave:

Congratulations are in order for the Mad River Radio Club for winning the Medium Club Competition in the 1993 ARRL International DX Contest.

You expressed concern with the comment in the contest results: "Although the NCC had a lower aggregate score, the average score per log was 1.4 million points, compared to 933K points for Mad River."

No slight whatsoever was intended. In fact, quite the contrary. The statement indicates that your club is well organized. MRRC has a history of being successful in meeting its goal, to win the "gavel." It is quite obvious from the contest results that you have accomplished this by encouraging your members to get-on-the-air for the contest and send in their entries for MRRC's aggregate score, regardless of how high or how low their individual scores may be. Mad River Radio Club does not only relying on a few high scores for results, but counts on participation from all its members.

Good luck to MRRC in next year's DX test.

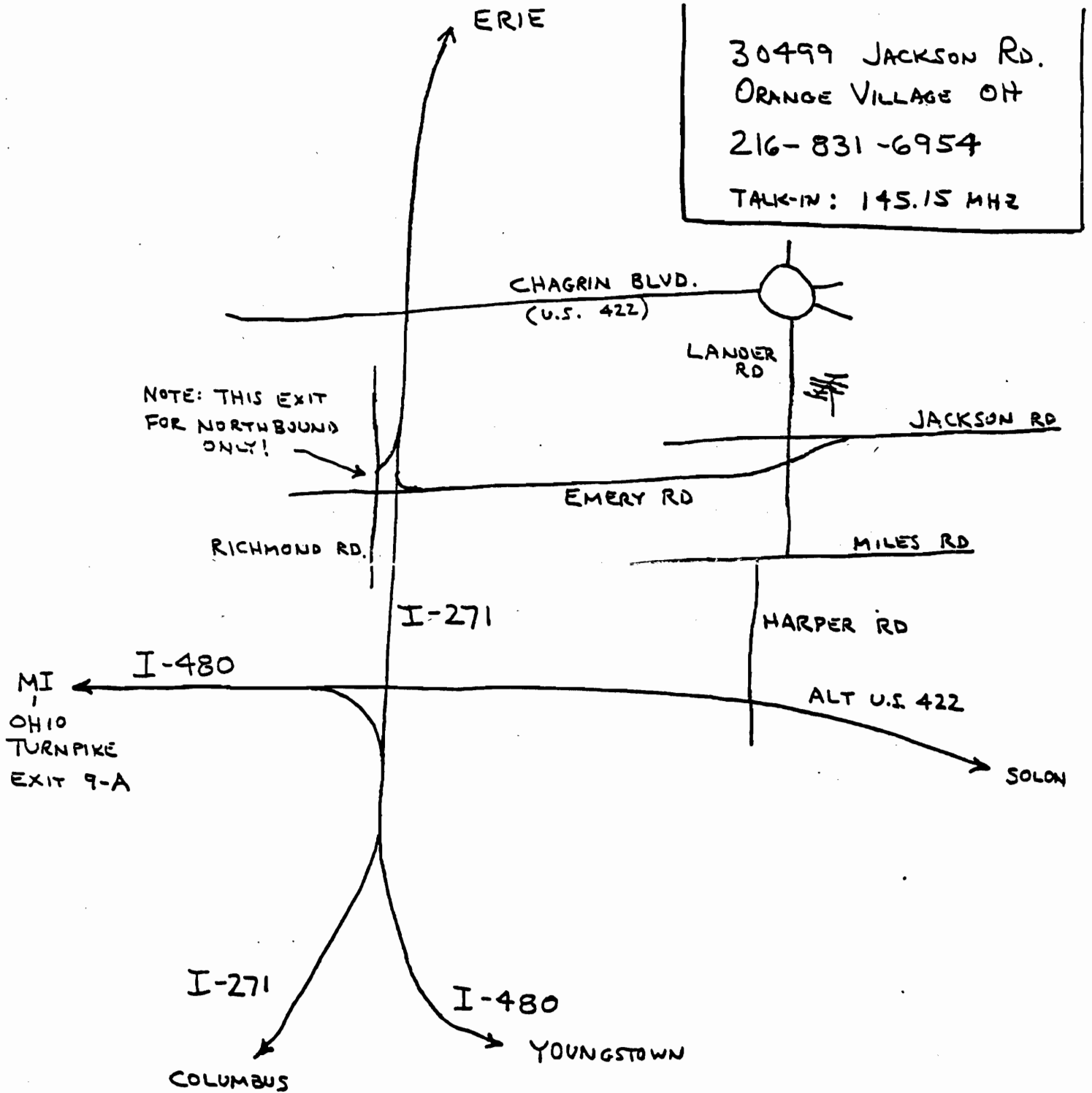
73,

Billy Lunt, KR1R
Contest Manager

CC: George S. Wilson III, W4OYI
Dave Sumner, K1ZZ
Trey Garlough, WN4KKN

The 17th Annual K8MR Christmas Party & MRRRC Meeting

Saturday, January 8, 1994 at 7:30 PM



SINGLE OPERATOR, MULTI STATION

By Jim Stahl, K8MR

Many times during the late hours of a serious CW sweepstakes operation I'd been jealous of the guys who had just shown up for the contest and were new enough to be running good rates of us full timers who were desperately looking for a few more QSOs. Rather than blow off the first day of a good contest, some years back I undertook single operator, multi-station efforts: going to an otherwise unused station and starting the contest with a fresh slate. During the recent peak of the sunspot cycle I'd passed because after the CQWW SSB I'd been burned out enough that one effort was enough. This year, with declining spots and a smaller DX contest effort, I returned to SOMS for the CW SS.

I started the contest at my QTH. It was definitely not a good start. My parents were in town and expected to stop for a short visit in mid-afternoon. Instead they got behind schedule and arrived at 2110Z. I lost 20 minutes being sociable. Things didn't get much better as I fought wife and kids screaming about VCR RFI, had two 80 meter antennas that were having trouble (I was able to fix both without climbing towers), and fought generally stinko conditions that made it tough to work anyone closer than about 600 miles. I quit for the night by 0730Z. In the morning I operated about an hour, reaching 555/72 before calling it quits.

After some breakfast I was on the road. The first stop was at the QTH of Dick Myers, W9OCF. After some 30 years as a technician class, Dick has upgraded to extra and become active on HF. His station runs 5L monobanders on 15 and 20, a great SS station for Texas or W6. Unfortunately he has just an R7 on the other bands, not such a great station for Ohio. The R7 requires a tuner, which was just a 300 watt MFJ, so I was limited to the barefoot TS-930 on 40 meters. Nevertheless it did get out enough that people came back when called and ever answered some CQ's at the bottom of the band. 20 and 15 with the KW were much more effective, though the geography of W8 kept me from running any real volume of QSOs on those bands.

Dick was a very interested host. I used the speaker to let him hear what was going on. He even found himself copying some of the slower stations. The NA computer logging impressed him. After a while he had his soldering iron out and was wiring up an old TenTec keyer bought at an earlier hamfest. By the time I left after 3 hours, with 167/56, he had the newly wired keyer plugged into the radio and was discussing ideas about how to upgrade his station to be able to do some contesting himself.

I went home for some lunch, and then was off to stop #2, KE8QM. Dave was the 3rd op with Goose and myself at our winning 1A Field Day operation this year. His station is quite simple, a TS-820S, A-4 at 50 feet, an AlphaDelta sloper system on 40 and 80, and no computer for logging. My first contact was AA8AV at 1919Z. Tuning the bands with no cw filter was a trip, but that's what loud signals are for. Again I did some successful CQing at the bottom of the band until I realized that Dave only has an advanced class license, so it was back above 025. Jumping between 40, 20, and 15 I was able to keep close to a qso per minute rate and do a reasonable job at filling up my mental multiplier check sheet. After about 2 hours the loud calls were becoming more familiar, and started telling me that we had qso'd before, so I called it quits with 132/54 and hit the road for the 45 minute trip to N8ATR.

By 2230Z when I arrived at Pete's the bands were taking their evening dive, so I was glad to be at a top notch station. But like every station it has its own peculiarities. The AEA keyer had its paddles wired backward, but I had brought my own keyer along

and luckily it had a compatible plug. More interesting was the old style keyboard with the 10 function keys along the left hand side and the insert and delete keys at the lower right. Pete was still fooling with the keyer when I decided to try calling a few people. Naturally my first QSO, N4TY, wanted fills on the number and precedence before the keyer was ready. I finally stumbled into just repeating the first part of the exchange and then getting out with the escape key.

Soon, I got settled down on 7029, and things started behaving like I was a loud new guy on the band. The first full hour at 2300 was a 78 rate - how long since you've done that on the Sunday evening of SS? I knocked off some western multipliers on 20 and then settled down for a nice run on 3540. About 02Z things got slow - down to 45/hour - and even I went back to doing some searching. Around 0245 went back to 40 with the 2L 40 at 130 feet, at which time the west coast was getting loud enough for a small run until the end of the contest. The N8ATR final was 284/60 in 4:20.

The contest was a lot more fun doing SOMS. Dick and Dave were both excited to see what their stations could do in the hands of an experienced operator, and I think it may encourage them to give it a try sometime themselves, though not necessarily on CW. I think the guys who got two or three contacts with an unfamiliar call liked it, even if they were scratching their heads when it answered them by name. It was interesting hearing the contest from the point of view of the average guy whose QSOs fill up our logs. And I definitely preferred making good rates to listening to unanswered CQs and computerized dupe warnings. As we look forward to a few boring DX contest years, be watching for that fast SS op with the low numbers on Sunday afternoon.

MRRC JACKETS

A number of people have asked about the MRRC jackets, tee-shirts and sweat-shirts worn by some of the membership. A number of years ago, **Joe Warden, WU2B**, (then "Big Fish" and calling himself W8LNO) devised the original artwork and arranged for an initial order of shirts and jackets with a shop in Columbus. Joe then moved to W6, and some years later **John Tymensky, N8CXX** had the artwork cloned and arranged for another batch of stuff from a shop up here in the Detroit area.

Recent years have seen some new blood come into MRRC, and hence there is renewed demand for club jackets and the like. N8CXX has checked with our supplier and has come up with the following deal:

MRRC tee-shirts	\$12
MRRC sweat-shirts	\$17

Minimum order: 12 items

MRRC jackets	\$34.25 (+\$4 for name)
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Minimum order: 6 items

There is a \$15 set-up charge each time we change colors. (Last time, we had both black and white shirts, and hence the black and white colors in the artwork must flip-flop). If you're interested in any of these items, contact **Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC** and we'll see if we can put together an order.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC

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

Balance reported 10/93 \$442.06

INCOME:

Dues collected: \$14.00
Total: \$456.06

EXPENSES:

Checking account maintenance (\$3/month) \$6.00
Printing/postage expense for 10/93 Flash \$50.00
Total: \$56.00

Balance 10/93 \$400.06

Not much fiscal activity this time. The checking account maintenance and "Flash" production expenses are typical of our fixed monthly expenses. Looking ahead, we have some ARRL plaques to pay for soon, but our finances look to be in good shape as we head into Dayton next April.

A reminder that dues will increase to \$12 per year beginning with the 1994/95 dues that are due at Dayton. This increase was voted in at the August MRRC meeting to provide funding of the MRRC Hospitality Suite while ensuring that our club finances remain ship-shape.

de Tim, KE8OC

MEMBER PROFILE:

DICK BENNETT, NZ8O

This month's member profile spotlights Dick Bennett, NZ8O. Originally licensed in the mid-fifties as K8EHU, Dick was one of the founding members of the MRRC and served as the first "Big Fish" in 1971.

The NZ8O antenna farm consists of a 50' tower holding up a KT34XA tribander and a Cushcraft 40-2CD, with wires for 80/160. Inside, the shack sports IC-765 and TS-830S transceivers with Alpha 77 and TL-922 amplifiers. Dick is also an avid homebrewer with a tremendous collection of parts, and has probably forgotten more than most of us will ever know about homebrew amplifiers.

Dick's operating interests are primarily CW, but has been known to pick up a microphone when coerced. His favorite contest is most likely Sweepstakes, followed closely by the 160M contests. Several years ago, Dick and fellow MRRC'er WU2B would go out to the future KN8Z QTH and operate the 160M contests using huge verticals held up by helium balloons.

It has been reported by Doc, KN8Z that Dick follows a most unusual diet during a contest - DOG BISCUITS. Doc says that not just any brand will do - that Dick "knows which ones to buy". Perhaps this contributed to Dick's small stature that earned him the nickname "Midget" from Doc during the early seventies.

Those of us who know Dick are aware that he currently supports his ham radio addiction as a practicing legal professional (that's another way of saying lawyer...). What most of us probably do not know, is that he is also a graduate physicist who worked on many of the sophisticated weapons deployed by the US in the Vietnam war. Golly, that sounds just like just the training required to operate twenty meters...

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