



The

FLASH



The Official Newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club

October / November 1994

MRRC CALENDAR

- October 22**
- *MRRC Meeting at USECA Hamfest*
- October 28-29**
- *CQWW DX Contest (SSB)*
- November 4-6**
- *ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)*
- November 18-20**
- *ARRL Sweepstakes (SSB)*
- November 25-26**
- *CQWW DX Contest (CW)*

From the 'Big Fish'

By Goose Steingass, WD8LLD

Hello again fellow MRRC'ers and happy October which also means HAPPY CONTEST SEASON! Yes, this is the time of year that we get to find out how all those new improvements we have made to our stations really play. Here at WD8LLD, this will be our first year that we have a directional gain antenna for 80 meters. Thanks to all who came up to help with the installation of the new 2 element phased inverted "L" system. I am just finishing the ground system on this array and hope to have it fully functional in the next week or two. If it behaves the way the modeling software sez, it should do a pretty good job on 80.

As you all realize by now, there was no August "FLASH." Part of the fault is mine in that I sent my column to Dave and he could not read the Wordperfect 6.1 file that I had generated during my lunch hour at work. I apologize for that problem Dave! The other reason is that there were no contributions. I don't want to sound like an old rag, but we need things to put in the "FLASH." This is our official club newsletter which we also exchange with other clubs. So PLEASE take a few minutes to jot down some of the things that you have been working on this summer for your station. You will be surprised, it might generate a few calls to you for help from another club member. It is also a way for those of you that are not so well known in the club to introduce yourself to other members.

Since the last edition of the "FLASH" we have had two meetings. It was good to see all of you that attended either the GF&B or Doc's or the Findlay meeting. The club has decided to make our club project for the year the winning the of the November Sweepstakes. With some effort, it should not be hard to accomplish this goal.

You might remember in the last "FLASH" that Dave proposed that we tackle the project of obtaining a reliable Packet Cluster link between the Ohio and Michigan members of the club. Well, the Findlay meeting saw this idea starting to finally become a reality. Jim, K8MR, announced that a couple of guys from the Sandusky area were trying to get a cluster node going in the vicinity of Berlin Heights (near Milan). Jim asked if the club would be interested in making a small donation to help purchase a power supply and TNC for the node. The club responded by taking up a collection and raised about \$180 for these guys. A big thank you to all who opened up their wallets and chipped in. At the last report the antenna was up and they should be operational as soon as the AK1A software arrives which should be within the next couple of weeks. I am sure that this will help with the club score in all the major contests this season!

Remember that the MRRC net meets each Monday at 8:30 on 3825 +/- the qrm. Checkins have been picking up a bit lately. However, we would still like to hear from you. So stop by and say hello. Also don't forget to drop Tim, KE8OC a line and let him know your e-mail address for the new club roster.

Well I have rambled on long enough. Good luck in CQWW SSB and hopefully we will see you at the USCEA Swapmeet on October 22. Now I have to get back out into the back yard and finish running ground radials while there is still some daylight left!

73, de Goose, WD8LLD
gooster@delphi.com



NEXT MRRC MEETING

The next meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be at 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 22, 1995 at the USECA Hamfest in Warren, MI (north side of Detroit metro area). See the announcement in this newsletter for further 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 of the last page. ☆☆
- ☆☆ The Mad River Radio Club is an ARRL-affiliated club of amateur ☆☆ radio contesting enthusiasts. The club area is centered on Findlay, ☆☆ OH, and serves the surrounding states. Membership in the MRRC ☆☆ is open to anyone. Dues are \$12 per year, payable to club ☆☆ treasurer KE8OC. Please make checks out to Tim O'Sullivan. ☆☆
- ☆☆ In addition to six in-person meetings per year, MRRC has an ☆☆ informal net every Monday evening at 8:30 PM Eastern time on ☆☆ 3825 KHz ± QRM. Everyone is welcome to check in for the latest ☆☆ club news and information. ☆☆
- ☆☆

From The Editor

By Dave Pruett, K8CC



As mentioned elsewhere by our "Big Fish", we had some file transfer problems in August which resulted in no *FLASH* prior to the Findlay meeting. This was unfortunate, however the members and the PacketClusters must have done a pretty good job getting the word out reminding everyone to come, because the Findlay meeting was well attended.

One development here is that your editor has a new job. I'm still at Chrysler, but my responsibilities have drastically changed. I'm putting in more hours at work, and I find that when I do get home, I'm more likely to be burned out or else there are more day-to-day tasks to accomplish, the end result being that I'm less likely to spend time working on the *FLASH*. This relates to a point I've made before - that I need people to submit stuff for the newsletter. There are sources for material out there such as the Internet, and I'm fortunate that MRRC has a good newsletter exchange with other contest clubs. However, it is not always enough. The process of producing the *FLASH* (printed, folded, stapled, addressed-stickered, stamped and mailed) takes around ten hours of my time. I'm not complaining - being the editor is always a thankless task, but I do it because I love this club. However, at this point in my life I fail to have the motivation to spend another ten hours or so to dig up or create the stuff to fill out the newsletter. This places the burden on the club membership to keep these pages filled.

On another subject, I want to make a comment about something that I believe shows the inherent spirit of MRRC. As mentioned by Goose in his editorial, at the Findlay meeting K8MR told the club about some guys trying to put up a PacketCluster in the Sandusky area, which would provide a long-desired direct path between Toledo and Cleveland. Jim asked if MRRC could donate a few dollars to help these guys out with the significant expenses of getting their node running. Without any prompting, just about every person in the room dug into their wallet to help out, with the result of \$160 going to help the cause. Maybe it's because we all recognize the benefit of a PacketCluster in that area, but I also choose to believe that this is a tribute to the generosity of MRRC. Thanks to all that contributed! As of this writing, the system is at least partially on the air, so we should soon be reaping the benefits of a solid link between two of our major club areas.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a e-mail from the World Radiosport Team Championship committee inviting MRRC to select one of the team captains for that event to be held next summer out on the west coast. This person will lead one of the ten USA teams, and must select a partner (who must be a member of another club). The team members are responsible for all of their expenses, including travel to and from the event. Goose and I will need to address this opportunity soon, and nominate our choice. We will discuss it at the USECA meeting this month, but our selection must be made by the end of the year. If you have a suggestion, please let Goose or I know prior to the end of November.

I hope to see everyone at the USECA meeting. Make sure your contest scores get to K8MR, and (yes, this its time for my bi-monthly pleading) **PLEASE** send something for the next *FLASH* by December 1.

73, Dave, K8CC

DON'T FORGET!

We need YOUR contributions for the next MRRC Flash - start working NOW on an article!

Deadline for publication: **DECEMBER 1, 1995**

A \$50 Beverage

By Randall Thompson, K5ZD
(Reprinted from the YCCC 'Scuttlebutt')

I build my first beverage antenna this past year. It was so easy, I can't believe that I lived without one. Here's how to do it:

1. Go to Home Depot (or other large hardware store) and buy a 500 foot roll of #16 THHN or MTW wire. It's available in every color you can imagine for about \$15 per 500 foot roll.
2. Go to a local feed store and get some electric fence insulators. These cost me about \$3.
3. Call your favorite radio dealer and order a ICE Beverage Matching Box. Cost: about \$30.
4. Go to Radio Shack and get a 400-600 ohm resistor. I actually used four (4) 2Kohm resistors in parallel!
5. Roll out the wire in the desired direction. Mount the fence insulators to convenient trees (my beverage is not perfectly straight) about 7-9 feet up. Connect the far end of the wire to ground through the resistor. Connect the other end to the matching box. That's it!

I did follow the conventional wisdom of sloping the ends down. I used four foot ground rods at each end. I only had room for a 500' run, although W3LPL pointed out that 580' might be a better length. It's simple to solder some more wire on.

This antenna makes 80 and 160 enjoyable. Less than \$50 to hear Europeans all summer on the LF bands seems like a good deal if you have the space!

When the antenna broke this summer, I used a split bolt connector to joining the two pieces back together. You can find these for about \$1 in the electrical aisle of Home Depot or hardware store. No solder required!

Sweepstakes Records

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

Elsewhere in the *FLASH* you will find tables of SS records for Michigan and Ohio. These tables show the ten best scores ever made from each state in four the categories (high power, low power, QRP, and multioperator) on both CW and SSB. I maintain this information because I find it to be useful in setting goals for SS. Condx and competition varies from year to year, but if you can make one of the ten best scores ever made from your state in a given category, you've really accomplished something!

There were some significant results in 1994. Ken, AA8AV, broke the Michigan CW low power record that had stood for 20 years, while the crew at AA8U broke the seven year old Michigan CW multi record. CW QRP saw the bar raised significantly by K8AQM (MI) and K8MFO (OH). Finally, the crew at KW8N showed that nobody in W8 knows how to make SS QSOs like they do - the first time the 2000 contact barrier has been broken from W8.

Looking for a challenge this November? There are no soft spots at the top of any category in either state, but with the recent upsurge in SS activity, there are plenty of opportunities for a hard-working entry to make it into the listings. The QRP categories might be the easiest, with the ratio of #1 to #10 being 2:1 in most cases. (MI QRP SSB is the easiest - there have been only eight entries since the category was created!) Multiop is next, with the #1 score typically leading #10 by approximately 50%. Not surprisingly, the single-op high and low power categories are the most competitive, where the margin between top and bottom is typically 30% or less.

Pick a category, strap in, and try to make the box! Good luck in November!

SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR MICHIGAN through 1994

CW Single Operator - High Power

94 W8ZDT	195,000-1300-75
93 W8ZDT	182,704-1202-76
93 K8CC	181,336-1193-76
91 K8CC	182,490-1185-77
90 K8CC	171,300-1142-75
83 W8BYVR	159,100-1075-74
88 K8CC	156,436-1057-74
78 K8LX	153,150-1021-75
83 K8CC	152,144-1028-74
86 K8CC	151,848-1026-74

CW Single Operator - Low Power

94 A8AV	142,604-926-77
74 W8CQJ	137,492-929-74
91 W8BV	134,288-872-77
93 A8AV	133,912-881-76
92 W8BG	132,440-860-77
92 A8AV	132,132-858-77
76 W8CQJ	131,254-899-73
92 W8GM	121,650-811-75
91 A8AV	116,732-758-77
75 W8CQJ	116,060-829-70

CW Single Operator - QRP

94 K8AQM	77,400-516-75
92 W8BV	51,830-355-73
91 W8BV	47,334-343-69
88 W8AAX	42,600-300-71
93 W8BV	42,560-304-70
91 W8VCF	41,538-301-69
94 W8BV	48,528-337-72
94 W8RUQ	40,320-315-64
91 W8CQA	39,480-282-70
92 W8AAX	38,364-278-69

CW Multi-Operator

94 A8BU	164,934-1071-77
87 K8AQM	162,504-1098-74
92 K8LX	157,542-1023-77
91 K8LX	147,440-970-76
94 K8JM	141,218-917-77
92 K8BH	129,514-841-77
77 W8JM	125,720-849-70
86 K8AQM	120,960-840-72
91 W8BOHO	112,274-769-73
80 W8UM	110,016-764-72

SSB Single Operator - High Power

93 K8CC (W8IJP)	294,294-1911-77
94 W8ZDT	263,802-1713-77
94 K8CC (W8IJP)	249,942-1623-77
94 A8BU	248,248-1612-77
93 A8BU	239,316-1554-77
91 K8MJZ	239,008-1552-77
92 K8JZ	236,852-1538-77
92 K8CC (W8IJP)	231,000-1500-77
90 K8MJZ	228,912-1506-76
92 A8BU	226,534-1471-77

SSB Single Operator - Low Power

92 A8AV	186,494-1211-77
94 A8AV	186,032-1208-77
93 A8AV	167,706-1089-77
90 W8CXX	154,924-1006-77
83 W8MGG	154,364-1043-74
91 A8AV	153,230-995-77
85 W8MGG	151,548-1038-73
88 W8MGG	148,808-979-76
92 W8NVT	126,588-822-77
84 W8MGG	125,060-845-74

SSB Single Operator - QRP

93 W8BG	100,408-652-77
89 K8BDLH	43,216-296-73
89 W8VWY	28,676-214-67
91 K0DD	27,950-215-65
92 W8CQA	26,980-190-71
94 K8LJQ	14,820-130-57
87 K8DD	11,960-130-46
88 W8VWY	9,328-106-44

SSB Multi-Operator

93 K8MJZ	246,092-1598-77
87 K8CC	214,500-1430-75
87 W8CXX	205,050-1367-75
87 K8MJZ	204,150-1361-75
83 W8CXY	192,992-1304-74
93 K8GCO	188,342-1223-77
91 K8LX	182,550-1217-75
81 K8SS	182,208-1248-73
86 W8SH	179,672-1214-74
82 W8CXY	179,376-1212-74

SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR OHIO through 1994

CW Single Operator - High Power

93 W8BN (W8IYE)	180,424-1187-76
92 W8BN (W8IYE)	180,334-1171-77
92 W8BG	179,256-1164-77
93 K8QH	178,752-1176-76
91 W8BG	173,866-1129-77
91 W8BN (W8IYE)	172,172-1118-77
90 W8BN (W8IYE)	169,800-1132-75
94 W8FN	165,600-1104-75
90 W8BO (K3UA)	165,376-1088-76
92 W0CG	162,944-1072-76

CW Single Operator - Low Power

92 K8CX	153,846-999-77
94 K8BL	150,766-979-77
94 K8CX	149,842-973-77
93 K8BL	149,264-982-76
93 K8CX	144,298-937-77
89 K8BL	136,192-896-76
91 W8AA	132,132-858-77
88 K8BL	130,720-860-76
94 K8AZ (W8K1C)	129,352-851-76
92 K8V8Q	129,206-839-77

CW Single Operator - QRP

94 K8HFO	100,168-659-76
92 W8BRJF	82,950-553-75
94 W8BRJF	75,460-539-70
90 K8BL	75,000-500-75
93 W8BRJF	65,036-458-71
90 W8BRJF	60,480-420-72
89 K8ATQ	58,756-397-74
94 K8OJA	56,576-442-64
89 W8IDM	54,312-372-73
88 W8IDM	53,136-369-72

CW Multi-Operator

83 W8BJM	161,616-1092-74
82 W8BJM	154,944-1076-72
81 W8BJM	154,322-1057-73
84 W8BJM	150,088-1028-73
91 W8BO	147,224-956-77
74 W8BJM	147,022-1007-73
91 W8EDU	142,912-928-77
79 K8ND	142,080-960-74
81 K8ND	141,044-953-74
93 W8EDU	140,296-923-76

SSB Single Operator - High Power

93 W8BN (W8IYE)	270,424-1756-77
91 K8AZ (K8NZ)	238,700-1550-77
92 W8BO	225,148-1462-77
78 W8K1C (W8MZZ)	219,450-1463-75
81 K8ND (W8MZZ)	217,412-1469-74
76 W8PLZ (W8MZZ)	213,014-1459-73
77 W8K1C (W8MZZ)	208,800-1392-75
78 K8AZ	207,150-1380-75
78 K8HR	205,350-1369-75
93 W8BO	204,974-1331-77

SSB Single Operator - Low Power

94 W8JEC	189,266-1229-77
93 K8BL	154,616-1004-77
92 K8BL	148,610-965-77
89 K8BL	142,142-923-77
94 W8MLX/8	130,720-860-76
81 K8EE	118,114-809-73
94 K8BL	116,116-754-77
82 K8EE	113,150-775-73
93 W8AA	111,650-725-77
86 K8BM	108,624-744-73

SSB Single Operator - QRP

93 W8BRJF	64,824-438-74
92 W8ILC	64,064-416-77
92 W8BRJF	61,500-410-75
90 AA4YZ	50,850-339-75
89 W8VWY	47,850-319-75
94 W8BRJF	46,368-322-72
88 W8ETH	42,918-311-69
88 W8BY	36,938-253-73
92 AA4YZ	36,412-186-71
93 W8VK	33,434-229-73

SSB Multi-Operator

94 W8BN	316,008-2052-77
92 W8BN	304,766-1979-77
91 W8BN	294,140-1910-77
89 W8BN	260,106-1689-77
85 W8BJM	255,744-1728-74
94 W8JNF	248,864-1616-77
87 W8JNF	245,100-1634-75
91 W8JNF	244,112-1606-76
94 W8BO	236,390-1535-77
83 W8BJM	229,252-1549-74

To:

Frankford Radio Club
Mad River Radio Club
North Coast Contest Club
North Texas Contest Club
Northern California Contest Club
Potomac Valley Radio Club
Society of Midwestern Contesters
Southeast DX Club
Southern California Contest Club
Yankee Clipper Contest Club

In recognition of your club's ranking and points totals in major contests over the past several years, the organizers of the 1996 World Radiosport Team Championship, WRTC-96, extend to your club the honor of nominating one of the U.S. team leaders.

The maximum of 52 two-operator teams for WRTC-96 will include 45 national teams, allocated by an assessment of contest activity based on the number of logs submitted in recent ARRL and CQWW contests. Ten of the national teams will be chosen from the U.S. Also, the winners of the 1990 WRTC will be invited to defend their title, and there will be up to six wild-card teams. Each national team leader will select a team partner from the same country, and wild-card team leaders will select from the same continent. Entrants will provide their own transportation to the San Francisco Bay area.

The team leader chosen by your club may be a club member, or not, as you choose. In order to emphasize that these are national teams, not part of an interclub competition, we are intending to stipulate that a team leader not choose a partner from the same club. A U.S. team leader may choose as a partner someone who has been nominated as a team leader by another club. In that case, we will ask the two clubs involved to agree on an alternate team leader, who will then choose a partner.

My records show that you are the current president of your club. If I have incorrect information, please forward this message to your club officers and advise me as well. If I did not have your e-mail address, I have sent this through a member of your club for forwarding.

As this point, we are seeking your club's agreement to participate in the nominating process, plus permission to be identified as one of the U.S. nominating clubs in the WRTC-96 public information. Final details of the selection process for U.S. teams will be available within a week, and WRTC-96 will make its formal request then for your nomination by a December deadline.

We hope you will consult with your other officers and members, seeking to nominate the strongest possible team leader. In general, we are looking for team leaders who have won recent major contests and will be capable of competing on both CW and SSB at the level of the very best contesters in the world.

Thanks for your early favorable response, as we are moving quickly to be ready for next years July 13-14 WRTC-96 contest dates. Please let me know if you need any additional information, and congratulations on the selection of your club as part of the nominating process.

73 de Dave Leeson, W6QHS



USECA SWAP



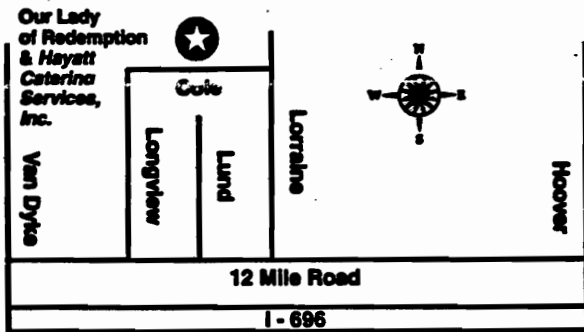
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1995

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

NEW, MORE CONVENIENT LOCATION

**OUR LADY OF REDEMPTION CONFERENCE CENTER
425 Cole, Warren, MI (just NE of Van Dyke & 12 Mile)**

**Ham gear, Electronic Parts, Connectors and Cable
Computers, Computer Parts and Software
VE Testing (Pre-registration required)
Non ham related gift items (get your Christmas gifts early)
Complete food service by Hayatt Catering Services. Come early for breakfast and
enjoy a delicious breakfast pizza.**



Admission: \$4.00 11 and under free

Tables \$15.00 each

Talk-in on: 147.18+ (100 Hz tone), 147.42 simplex

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

ALL ONE FLOOR FOR EASY ENTRY AND EXIT

Chairman:

Kevin Everett, N8QVX, 810-772-8082

21947 Birchwood, Eastpoint, MI 48021

Additional contacts:

Jim, N8OKW or Marianne, N8TMJ, 810-739-6565

Biff, N8NQQ, 810-566-7749

VE test registration: Bill, N8CVC, 810-468-8345

DIRECTIONS:

I-696 to Van Dyke (M-53)

North 1 mile to 12 Mile Rd

Right on 12 Mile, then left on Longview

Sponsored by: Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association Inc.

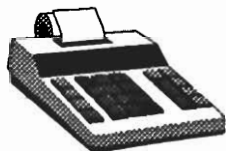
**MRRC MEETING AT
THE 1995 USECA SWAP**

The next MRRC meeting will be Sunday, October 22, 1995, at the USECA Swap in Warren, MI (see map above). For those of you unfamiliar with the Detroit area, Warren is on the north side of the metropolitan area. Highway I-696 (shown in the map above) is a major freeway which runs east-west across the north side of Detroit. For those of you coming from the south (such as Ohio), the best route is to take I-75 north through the city to I-696 east. From the west, take either M-14 or I-94 to I-275 north to I-696 east. In either case, exit I-696 at Van Dyke north to 12 mile road, then follow the map. For further instructions, try K8NA/R on 145.13 (-.600), the SE Michigan DX Association repeater that is monitored by many of the MRRC locals.

The meeting will be at 9:30 AM in the food service area. Remember, this will be your last chance to get in a second meeting to be eligible for MRRC in the Sweepstakes Affiliated Club competition. Hope to see you there!

Treasurer's Report

By Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC



Since we missed the August/September *FLASH*, it's been a few months since the club books were balanced. A number of club members got caught up with their dues, and we finally got some club bills balanced, yet we are still comfortably in the black..

Balance reported 7/95	\$543.68
Income	
Dues collected at KN8Z and Findlay	\$120.00
Dues via direct mail	\$12.00
Expenses	
Checking Account Maint. (Aug-Sept)	\$6.00
Flash Publication (Apr/May, June/Jul)	\$100.00
ARRL DX Contest Plaque Sponsorship	\$50.00
Balance 10/95	\$519.68

Included in this newsletter is the official club roster. People who have not paid their dues were purged from the list.

Respectfully Submitted, Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC

MRRC September CW Sprint Results

Doug, WD8AUB, did a fine job of pulling together not one, but two MRRC teams for the September CW Sprint. Despite the distraction of the Findlay Hamfest (and MRRC meeting!) the next morning, a number of members turned out to carry the club banner into the fray!

K8CC	254-43-10922
W0CG (WD8AUB)	251-42-10542
WM4T (KU8E)	233-42- 9786
AC8E (K8MR)	231-41- 9471
WD8LLD	212-38- 8856
W8FN	201-40- 8040

Somehow, in the post-Sprint, Findlay shuffle, not all of the MRRC scores were recorded, for which we apologize. However, at least a few efforts deserve mention. Bob, KW8N, was vacationing in SC, so Doug got him in touch with a few FOCCer to borrow a station. Also, the W8FN score wound up less than normal due to a non-functioning Alpha amplifier that was discovered right before the contest. (CT1BOH may not be able to break an Alpha, but a lightning strike sure can...)

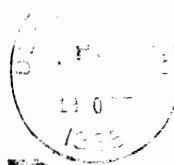
Remember, that Jim, K8MR is the official club scorekeeper, so please be sure to send him your results to get in the newsletter. If you're going to use the USPS, send the score to Jim. Also, if you can get into the Ohio PacketCluster system, send the score to Jim. If you are connected to the Great Lakes PacketCluster System (which covers MI and NW OH), send your score to K8CC.

Of course, a much better alternative is to turn in the score live on the MRRC net on Monday evenings, 8:30 Eastern Time on 3825 KHz.

de K8MR



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