



The FLASH



The Official Newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club

August/September 1996

Volume 26 Issue 2

From the MRRC 'Big Fish'

By Bruce Lallethin, AA8U
aa8u@voyager.net



Hurricane Fran did a lot of damage, but fortunately she did not have much effect on the Findlay hamfest. At the MRRC meeting, we elected (railroaded) **Goose, WD8LLD** as the new MRRC Club Project Chairman. Goose and his assistants will soon be contacting each member to get the maximum participation in our quest for the ARRL SS Affiliated Club Gavel. Please participate this year in the ARRL SS contests, both modes if you can.

We hope to soon deliver the MRRC 160M Challenge patches that **Ted, K8AQM** had produced. In the last *FLASH* I made mention that the Ohio contingent of MRRC has won this event for two years running, however I have been informed that this is incorrect. It seems each group can proudly claim one victory.

In the rather short time I have been a member of MRRC, I have realized this club has a tradition for holding the shortest and most informal meetings possible. As your FISH, I have to take responsibility for the conduct of our meetings. In an effort to do better than

the last time I even brought an agenda. Almost all of these items were adequately covered, I think to the mutual satisfaction of those present.

The last item on the agenda was the Adrian hamfest announcement. **Brian, KG8CO** had worked very hard organizing and advertizing this event. He and other Adrian area hams have been doing their best for months to make this event successful. I felt it appropriate to offer Brian, a fellow club member, the opportunity to make an announcement to the members present.

Brian was seated at the back of the meeting room and my hearing isn't as sharp as it should be. What happened as Brian was "almost" finished with his short announcement is very regrettable. At the time I didn't realize he wasn't quite finished as one of the long time members moved the meeting be adjourned. There were no shortage of "seconds" to this motion and the meeting was effectively concluded.

I didn't notice at the time, but Brian was very much surprised and offended that

he was cut short so abruptly by his fellow club members. Looking back on it, I should have been a bit more aware of what was happening and held the floor open for Brian to finish. I failed Brian and the other club members present for what turned out to be a rude display of bad manners toward one of our own. I feel this outcome wasn't intentional, but the effect was the same as if it had been.

Since this meeting others that were in attendance have expressed their dismay that this happened. Some prospective members that otherwise would have become members were very turned off by what took place. They didn't sign up then and will likely not become members. Some new members and some not so new will likely drop their membership soon.

I apologize to Brian and everyone else present at the Findlay meeting for allowing this to take place. It is my sincere hope that no one will make good on their promise to leave the club because of this. I will in future try to lead these meetings more effectively and give all members an opportunity to participate fully.

73, de **Bruce, AA8U**

Editor's Note:

Bruce has graciously taken the entire blame for this incident on himself, but there WERE other factors at work. The room arrangement with the club secretary up front collecting dues added to the general noise level making it hard to control the meeting. Furthermore, there were numerous conversations going on between some of the members. In the future, let's all show respect to our 'FISH' and have ONE meeting. This will go a long way towards preventing a similar situation from happening again.

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.

The Editor's Keyboard

By Dave Pruett, K8CC
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MRRRC 160 Challenge Results

By Bruce Lallethin, AA8U
aa8u@voyager.net

Another month, another *FLASH*! Proving once again that you folks actually DO read this newsletter, I want to thank everyone for their favorable comments about the new look and layout.

This is a good-sized *FLASH* this time. Twelve pages is about the maximum that we can mail with a standard unit of postage. We've been waiting for the story of the 1996 Pacific DXpedition, and N8CC does a great job telling the tale. Some stuff came from the Internet. The ETO/Alpha piece from K1DG is significant to a lot of MRRCCers who own Alphas, while the story by K3ZO of operating All-Asia SSB from HS0ZAR gives us a glimpse of operating from a part of the world few of us will ever experience.

Bruce, AA8U and **Ted, K8AQM** have worked hard to get the final results and patches out for the first two MRRRC 160 Challenges. We have been laboring under the misconception that Ohio won both, but the published results tell a different tale. This makes things interesting in 1996 (boy, am I glad **Ken, WD9INF** moved to Michigan...).

This issue also includes the Sweepstakes "Ten Best" list, which tabulates the ten best SS scores ever done from Michigan and Ohio for the four categories on both modes. I've always felt that these lists were significant in that making one of the ten best scores EVER is a tremendous accomplishment. Of the 160 possible scores, 70 (not quite half) belong to currently active MRRRC members. That's saying something about our role in contesting in the W8 call area.

Still looking for YOUR article for the FLASH. The digital camera is ready for duty, plus I have access to a color scanner at work. I can be reached at either dap14@chrysler.com, k8cc.ix.netcom.com, or via the GLPS PacketCluster system.

73, de Dave, K8CC

Based on the published contest results and club rosters from the corresponding years, here are the results for the MRRC 160 Challenge. (Note: the 1994 results have been published before.)

1994 ARRL 160 CONTEST

Michigan Operators		Ohio Operators	
K8MJZ	87552	K9ALP	133500
A8BAV	(@ K8CC) 284788	KA8D	6600
N8EA	43415	W8FN	100964
K8CV	31752	K8MR	78128
W8UA	16470	KN8Z	338796 Multi
K8DD	12330	N8JEC	*
AA8U	283305 Multi	NZ8O	*
KF8QE	*	WX8T	*
K8AQM	166706 Multi	WD9INF	235008 Multi
NU8Z	*	W8IQ	*
		KC8MK	216576 Multi
		NZ4K	*
		W8OSE	39488
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TOTAL	926318	TOTAL	1149060

(* indicates part of multi-op entry listed above)

1995 ARRL 160 CONTEST

Michigan Operators		Ohio Operators	
AA8U	283824	KA8D	8750
A8BAV	(@ K8CC) 210663	W8FN	118078
K8AQM	177660 Multi	K8MR	38285
AA8UG	*	KC8MK	260190 Multi
K8JM	*	NZ4K	*
KG8EF	134148 Multi	KU8E	*
AA8HZ	*	WD9INF	215730 Multi
NU8Z	*	N8AAT	*
KG8CW	98192	N8ABL	*
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TOTAL	904,487	TOTAL	641,033

(* indicates part of multi-op entry listed above)

All the callsigns listed above will be receiving a MRRC 160 Challenge Patch.

Note that the score is tied: OHIO 1, MICHIGAN 1. Who will win in 1996?

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☆☆ **MRRC IS NOW ON THE AIR!** ☆☆

☆☆

☆☆ **Our new club call is KC8EYA** ☆☆

☆☆

☆☆ **to be upgraded once the vanity call** ☆☆

☆☆ **foolishness settles down** ☆☆

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Summer in the Pacific

By Jeff Benson - WCC, and Ted Rachwal - K8AQM

In 1970 Ham radio was a new and wondrous adventure for the author. DX was W6 or W7 and who knew what made the bands good or bad from day to day, month to month. If ever a foreign callsign was heard, more time was spent trying to figure out where the station was located than in actually trying for a contact.

Fast forward to 1995: With operations from St. Kitts, Guam, Saipan, and St. Pierre, I was enthusiastic when good friend and co-dxpeditioner Ted Rachwal-K8AQM and I began kicking around a second Pacific operation. The seeds of this trip were sown a couple years earlier while at KH0. One idea led to another, and our plan blossomed into a month long Pacific wide event, with operations from the Hawaiian Islands, the Marshalls, Ponape, Palau, Japan, and American and Western Samoa.

Ted is a school teacher, so his "window of opportunity" was pretty cut and dried. Mid-June to mid-August was cool for him, after XYL Judy gave her stamp of approval to Ted's gallivanting around the Pacific sans adult supervision!

My situation is a little different. I don't have the same family constraints as Ted, but my job doesn't normally give me the summer off, either! However, after some extensive lobbying, and thanks to some good advice and support from my boss, I managed to get a leave of absence for the month of July 1996.

Now, this type of trip is sort of like "Field Day on Steroids". Some of the same rules apply, such as "the more the merrier" so we set about finding some more craz.... er... "adventurous" people willing to throw in with us. Before long, Brian-KG8CO, Dave-KB8ECG and Kirk-KG8DS are lined up to go for the last two weeks of the trip! Soon licenses, airline tickets and hotel reservations are obtained. No turning back now.

With just Ted and myself slated to lead off the trip, keeping the baggage to an absolute minimum is paramount. Still, when we leave Detroit on 28 June, we are heavily loaded. Antennas and two complete stations, including an AL811 amplifier, keep us right at the limit of airline baggage constraints. If Walt - K8AEM hadn't let me borrow his TS50S and switching power supply, I'd really be in trouble. As it is, each of us has about 70 pounds in carry-on baggage alone. Whew!

HAWAII - KH6

We spent a night in Los Angeles along the way to Honolulu, where we had a 2 day layover before heading on to Majuro, Marshall Islands. While in Honolulu, we worked a couple log pages of US and JA stations on a wire thrown out the 12th story hotel window and loaded up on 30 meters with an MFJ tuner. It's amazing what one can do with a hunk of wire if it's up in the air far enough. We rented a Caddy and visited Pearl Harbor before cruising around to the north coast to see the sights. The weather was pretty hot, but nothing compared to what was to come.

MAJURO - V73

A sunny afternoon greets our Continental 727's arrival on Majuro, after a very bumpy refueling stop on Johnston Island, where only military personnel are allowed to disembark. Ted, who is an admittedly poor flier, is glad to have his feet on the ground. I suspect that the sweat beading up on his bald pate is more from anxiety than the 100 degree heat.

Majuro is a narrow crescent in the ocean, one of several islands in the Marshall group. So narrow, in fact, that from the middle of the runway, you could probably fish both the Lagoon on one side and the ocean on the other without moving a step, if you had a good casting rod. The lagoon offers an

anchorage for sailboats that stop over for the night for rest and provisions between stops at some of the more developed islands. One main road courses the islands length. Not much chance of getting lost here!

We stay at the Hotel Robere, in a small cottage that is scant steps from the lagoon. This island is so flat that there is no shelter from weather, and so there are few trees taller than 15 feet. What elevation we can get for our antennas, we'll get from the mast we brought along. Conditions and activity are low. We make under 600 contacts in 3 days. We have learned a valuable lesson. Any planned operation of this type should bracket a weekend, as this is when 90 percent of ham activity takes place.

PONAPE - V63

A couple hops and two very short runways later, we arrive on Ponape. We stay at the South Park Hotel, in Kolonia. Many say that Ponape is the most beautiful island on earth, and with good reason. The lush, flowering vegetation dominates the landscape, which is mountainous in nature. Our accommodations are situated on a bluff about 200 meters above the ocean, with a clear shot to the north and west. Not only is this an outstanding radio QTH, but the hotel and restaurant are five star all the way.

We are initially a little cautious about the location of our antennas, as we don't want to wear out our welcome by stringing wires all over this beautiful setting. Our concerns are unnecessary, however. The manager, Kenny Omura, suggests that the antennas would work better if suspended between the two royal palms that bracket the view from the restaurant out over the ocean. Now here's a guy with a real appreciation of beauty! With dipoles on 20 and 30 meters, and the wire equivalent of a B.C. Trapper for the low bands, we rap out 2600 QSO's in 3 days, and manage to squeeze in a little tourist activity in between band openings.

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Summer in the Pacific

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When we call ahead to our next planned destination, Chuuk (formerly Truk), we find out that there has been a complete power failure on that island. We decide to skip Chuuk, and instead spend some extra time on Palau.

PALAU - KC6

We arrive on Palau via Guam just after sunset. The cheerful Filipino and Palaoan shuttle drivers greet us cheerfully at the terminal. This is really the common denominator of the whole trip. Without exception, the native people go out of their way to be friendly and helpful, and to make us feel very welcome. This is not "put on" in the least, and includes just about everyone whose path we cross. I feel like I'm at a reunion, instead of halfway around the world. But I digress....

On arrival at the New Koror Hotel, a clean but a bit run down 3 story establishment located within 100 yards or so of the ocean, we are told "the roof is yours". So, we unpack our gear and set about putting up antennas. We discover an old 12AVQ vertical, which we "borrow" by hooking up a length of coax. We later discover, much to our embarrassment, that it belongs to **Ria, KC6DO**, the hotel manager and amateur of about 6 months. She just laughs, and tells us to go ahead and use it. Another 2.5K QSO's are made from this most westerly leg of our trip.

JAPAN - JA

Ted is pretty much obliged to make a stop in Japan during this trip, as he spent a year in Moriyama 5 or 6 years previous. He has many friends to renew acquaintances with, and he encourages me to come along.

By this time we are pretty worn down by the exertion of numerous setups and teardowns in 100 degree, 100% humid-

ity weather, and to be honest, I'm apprehensive about chasing all over JA meeting a bunch of people I don't even know. I had even considered staying in KC6 a few extra days alone, where I'd at least be rare DX. Ted convinces me to go along, however, and I am eternally in his debt for it. The next 4 days are without compare in my experience.

Words fail me in describing the how friendly and truly giving a group Ted's friends are. We are first treated to a dinner in our honor on the penthouse roof of a fancy hotel downtown by the Kyoto DX Club. They pick us up at the train station, and we are pretty much a "football" for the rest of the time. We are escorted to and fro, to all the points of interest, shrines, restaurants, parades, adult education classes, radio stores, and more. We stay as guests at peoples homes, and are treated more like family than someone from another country. They go to great expense in personal and financial terms to make sure our stay is a pleasant one, and they succeed, in spades.

Oh, yes, we make a couple hundred QSO's from using our club station call 7J3YAD. We are the Kobe International Radio Club.

HAWAII - KH6

We fly out of the Kansai airport, en route to Hawaii via Guam. We are in good spirits, but the heat is really beginning to take it's toll on our northern blood. We are getting used to the temperature, but our stamina is at a low ebb. Fortunately, we have a 2 day layover at Sea Q Maui, a ham radio bed and breakfast run by Terry and Donna Clayton. This place has a fully equipped Ham station, complete with TH7DXS, TH6DXX, Wires for the low bands, a TS940S and amplifier. One of the coolest hamshacks you'll see is decorated with world map wallpaper, and opens into a Lanai that overlooks a golf course and sunset over the Pacific.

The real selling points of this place, however, are Terry and Donna. They are very friendly and interesting hosts,

and we spend quite a bit of time just relaxing on the Lanai and visiting with them. On top of that, Terry is a gourmet chef, and he uses us as guinea pigs for his wonderful creations. This is just what we need to catch our second wind. We do spend enough time on the air to chat with friends back home.

AMERICAN SAMOA - KH8

After meeting up with Brian, Kirk, and Dave at the airport in Honolulu, we fly out for Pago Pago, American Samoa. We go on from there to Ofu, one of the small outer Islands in the group. Ofu is about 1-3/4 by 1 mile, and has a population of about 300.

This is the first stop we go into "blind", without knowing anything about the QTH at all. It turns out to be a string of cottages up next to the surf, on the south side of several thousand feet of mountain. Probably the most ruggedly beautiful places I've ever seen, it is just what I've always envisioned a south Pacific scene should look like. The mountain to the north means conditions to the States and Japan are marginal at best, but it is difficult to be disappointed in the presence of such raw beauty. Our rooms are 50 steps from the crashing surf and spray, and at night the stars just jump out of the sky at us.

Brian and Dave pass out some much appreciated RTTY Q's, and also send some e-mail back home via a Pactor/Internet link on ZK1, South Cook Island.

Due to weight limits on Samoa Air's planes (the average Samoan weighs 250 pounds), it takes 2-1/2 days for some of our equipment to catch up with us. We make a modest 800 + Q's, but I'd go back here in a minute.

WESTERN SAMOA - 5W

We leave Ofu in the afternoon, headed for 5W, Apia, Western Samoa. We have our first lost baggage incident of the trip, and our accommodations turn out to be less than adequate. By this

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Summer in the Pacific

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time it is dark, so we do what any group of savvy world travelers would do. We find a good restaurant, have dinner and a few beers, and discuss our next move.

In the morning, we go out looking for a better site. Soon we come across the Hotel Kitano, which is probably the plushiest place we've seen yet. I'm skeptical about our chances of getting permission to operate from here, but Ted puts on his "puppy face" and asks the manager if it would be possible for us to put up "a few wires". They agree to this, so we are in business. By mid-afternoon, we are on the air, within 200 yards of the ocean. By the time we are done, we'll have made over 3400 Q's, including over 100 on 160 meters.

Western Samoa is another lush and beautiful island. Renting a car, we drive out to Return to Paradise Beach, the scene of the 1952 Gary Cooper film of that name. We went past the home of Robert Louis Stevenson, who's final resting place is here also.

As we lift off from Apia, destination Honolulu, and then home, we review the months activities. In a Journey of probably 20 thousand air miles, we've made about 10 K QSO's, and a lot of friends, both on the air and in person.

DX is a lot further away than it was in 1970. Now I can match up the call-signs to the countries without looking them up...and amateur radio is still a wonderous adventure for me.

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☆ **DON'T FORGET!** ☆

☆ We need YOUR contributions for the next ☆

☆ MRRRC Flash - start working NOW on an ☆

☆ article! ☆

☆ Deadline for publication: ☆

☆ **December 1, 1996** ☆

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ETO/Alpha News

By Doug Grant, K1DG
From the Internet

I was strolling through the booths at the New England ARRL Convention in Boxboro, MA yesterday, and was surprised to see Dave Wilson, G3SZA/AA0RS manning the "ETO" booth. Turns out it wasn't the ETO booth this time - it was the "Alpha/Power" booth, and will be from now on.

According to a one-page flier in the booth and a very pleasant conversation with Dave, here is the straight scoop on ETO/Alpha.

As many of you know, ETO was acquired last December by AS&E, a Massachusetts company with no interest whatsoever in ham radio. A few weeks (maybe months) ago, AS&E spun off the amateur product line to a new entity now named Alpha/Power. Principals are Dick Ehrhorn, W4ETO, as Chairman of the Board, and Dave Wilson, G3SZA/AA0RS as President.

Dave is moving the company about 100 miles away from its present location, and does not expect that all of the present employees will make the move. Ray Heaton, for example, lives close to the old location, and will not be moving to the new location. He WILL remain with the company for a short while.

Dave told me about attempting to clear out the backlog of amplifiers that were in for repair. They would start working on an amp, then a customer would call, and the time spent explaining the delay to the (usually angry) customer further delayed repairs on all the amps. So Dave ordered that the phone go unanswered for a few days while the got caught up.

Around this time, someone got upset that nobody answered his call, and started the rumor that the company had gone under. Sigh.

The repair backlog seems under control now, except for amplifiers for which parts are unavailable. There is a current problem with sourcing one particular component for 91Bs, but Dave thinks that will be cleared up soon.

Dave is a very good guy. He genuinely wants to make the business work, and believes that he can do it now that the distractions of the commercial/medical amplifier business are gone. He knows that customer service has been a problem, and is taking steps to fix it.

He mentioned some of his plans - for example, starting a program to allow owners of 76As and 374s to replace the RF/tube decks with 3CX800-based decks. This would be cheaper than buying a new amp, and probably cheaper than re-tubing a 3-hole 8874 amp (he says new 8874s are over \$400 now). He has some ideas for new products, and hopes to have something for Dayton next year. He also recognizes that contesters make up a big part of the market for high-end amplifiers, and he aims to keep us all happy.

He's getting a Web page up to allow easier communication with customers, and welcomes suggestions for new products, service improvements, etc. I'm sure he would welcome your inputs.

I view this as great news for contesters, and thought I would share it with you all. Give Dave a call (or better yet, wait for his Web page and send him Email so he can finish fixing amplifiers without interruptions, or write a letter). Tell him you read the news here (so he'll know that the gang on the contest reflector is behind him).

73, Doug K1DG

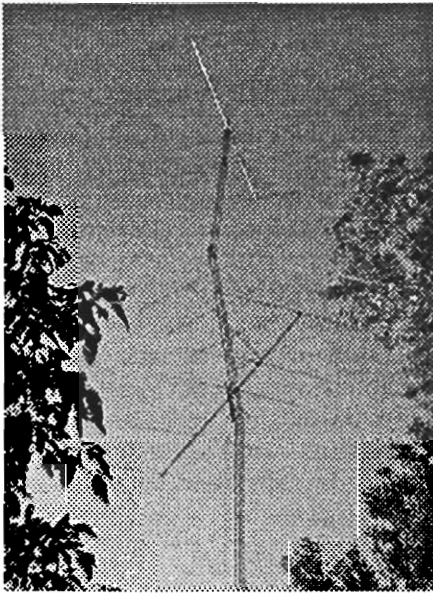
P.S.: The usual disclaimer applies - I have no financial interest in ETO or Alpha/Power. I know Dave, and wish him well in his venture. I also hope that the next time my 76PA croaks, it will take less than 6 months to get it fixed (which it took last time, even after I got several cards and letters advising me it would be returned "in one more week").

MRRRC NEWS

The next MRRRC meeting will be Sunday, October 20 at the USECA Hamfest in Warren, MI. This meeting, is the last prior to CQWW and the start of the contest season, so these are your last opportunities to establish eligibility for MRRRC in the ARRL Affiliated Club Competitions.

Arrangements for the meeting location are still incomplete. Look for **Hank, K8DD** or **Buck, N8CQA** who will have more information at the hamfest. Also, the Michigan PacketClusters should have more information as it becomes available.

YOU DID WHAT!?!? That was the response from **Dave, K8CC** when he came home from work in late August to find that his lawn-mowing father had hit one of the guy wires for the 120' 25G tower with the farm tractor.



The impact was on the third of four guy levels, which pulled the tower sideways about three feet. The guys in the opposite direction were stretched and the earth anchors displaced slightly.

A few hours of HARD pulling on the guy wires with a 1/2 ton come-along brought the tower back in line. After

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All-Asia SSB from "The Other Side"

By Fred Laun, K3ZO/HS0ZAR
From the Internet

During my stay in Thailand this year I obtained permission to use the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand's club station for the All Asia SSB DX Contest using my personal call HS0ZAR. Though conditions at this point in the sunspot cycle are bad all over, I knew that April and September are the best months for propagation "over the pole" from the East Coast to Thailand.

Club station manager HS1CHB picked me up on Friday night and took me to the club station site, located on the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology about 10 miles north of Bangkok airport. The contest begins at 0700 Saturday morning Thailand time so I played around on 40 CW at sunset Friday night hoping to give a few of the needy Zone 26 on 40. Conditions were not all that good however and I only dragged the big stations, K1MEM, N4AR and a couple of others through the rainy season's QRN. Plenty of JA's got through, however.

At 0000 GMT I was ready to go on 20 SSB with the 80-foot-high TH7DXX over the North Pole but after one CQ brought a WA2 there weren't many other answers. And what there were were JA's who didn't realize that HS is part of Asia. Guess the USA gang didn't realize the band was open. I looked around 20 and found just a few non-Asians running JA's -- KH0/JH1UUT, DU1SAN, VK9XB -- and though it was no problem to break through the piles, things went pretty slow. None of the bands were open to Europe yet. A look at 15 found three VK's knocking them off, nothing else. At around 0145 GMT the South Americans -- ZP, LU, CP -- began to come through on 15. But they were few and far between and I created a non-contest pile-up of JA's just to keep myself amused. Every now and then a South American would break through and I could coax a number from him. At 0400 I only had 16 contest QSO's and then things picked up a bit as UA's

started coming in on 15 and 20.

Finally at 0700 with 40 QSO's in the log enough of Europe was in daylight so that I got my first run going on 15. The band dropped out at 0740 and came back again about 0820. This time the run was for real and continued for hours, but Bangkok's daily rainy-season afternoon series of thunderstorms made me QRT every now and then when lightning flashes got too close. Almost all the callers were Europeans but the occasional 5Z4, Z28 or S79 would call in. Also Asians who were not aware I could not work them for points. How many times in a single contest have you had to tell three different S21's that, sorry, you were not allowed to work them in the contest? Since I was paper-logging it was not hard to log the Asians anyhow in case any of them needed an HS QSL.

At about 1100 GMT I realized that 20 was getting ready to open to the East Coast but the run of Europeans on 15 didn't let up and everyone was telling me I was the loudest thing on that band so I decided to hang in there until 15 closed. Finally at 1307 the band closed with 356 QSO's in the log, the last being SM4GNU. At around 1200 I got mad for the only time in the contest when 9A3NQ called me, gave me a long song-and-dance about how he wasn't in the contest, hated contests, and asked for my name and QSL information.

It gave me great pleasure at that point to indicate that I had clearly called "CQ contest" and that if he wasn't in the contest he should not have called me; I then coined a phrase: "No contest number, no QSL" and he quickly got the point. After saying "oh boy" a couple of times he came across with a number.

The minute I got on 20 E21CJN across town informed me that he had been

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All Asia SSB

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running the East Coast and South America solid there for two hours. I went to work there at 1330 with W9HRQ and even though K4MZU and W4MWT were booming in as usual I had obviously missed the best part of the East Coast opening and outside of a few Midwest QSO's what was coming in now was Europe. I ran mostly Europeans until about 1500 when 20 closed abruptly with my QSO total standing at about 450.

What was left was 40 meters which was a mess. By this time the European SSB Field Day had begun and local QRM in Europe kept all but the best-equipped Europeans from hearing me, and even with an inverted vee with the apex at about 70 feet on my end, it was S&P all night long with meagre results. Besides, I couldn't hear very well either with the loud Iranian broadcast station on 7070, being jammed by the Iraqis, with audio cranked up to overcome the jamming creating parasitics on audio peaks which spread out all over the band. Another BC/jamming combination on 7105 wasn't doing much good for the portion of the band between 7080 and 7100 either. The JA's weren't having much luck either; I only heard JA8NFV, who I believe has a 3-el monobander on 40, running stations with regularity.

Finally at 2000 the bothersome BC stations went off and at the same time a few LU's showed up on the band working the contest; they were comparatively easy to work, as was the odd African that came on. At 2345 20 finally opened with WA2VUY and beginning 0015, with a grand total of 475 QSO's to show for the first half of the contest, I was able to run the East Coast pretty well. A lot of people had obviously learned about the contest since the night before! At 0130 GMT with 524 QSOs in my log the opening ended. I might add that I was not running at full blast the whole time since I felt compelled to have a few words with many of my friends who

called, conditions being so good. What was left after the East Coast dropped out were a few locals like a V63 and some YB's, so I decided to have a little shut-eye while waiting for the European opening on 15.

At about that time one of Thailand's eager young contesters, 18-year-old E21LLR, showed up at the station, so I let him operate until 0900 when I took over again. He wasn't going to send in contest log anyhow so he was happy to give the unsuspecting JA's and HL's who called a contest number, and later knocked off a number of stations in Europe and the Middle East before I got on again.

At 0920 I began running Europe on 15 with 535 QSO's now in the log. Conditions today were not all that great to Europe, however, and at 1100, having only increased my QSO total to 555, I switched to 20 to catch the beginning of the East Coast opening. The first to answer my CQ was FT5WE! (I had also worked FT5WF earlier). It's an easy shot from Thailand. I was surprised from the ages given that both of these guys are in their early 20's.

It took until 1122 for the first USA to come through, K2QBV. About 1205 I finally found a frequency that worked and then the pile began to form. By 1300 I was up to 629 QSO's, almost all those in the last two hours being from the USA, with the W4's predominating. It was great to have one of my mentors and gurus, Ed, W3AU, call in. At 1402 I was called by myself, as Rana, WB4NFO, went over to my QTH so I could hear how the K3ZO signal sounded. By then it seemed I had worked just about all of my DX'er/contester neighbors and about half of the PVRC members. At 1421, with 705 QSO's in the log, I worked my last W in the opening, as the band shifted to Europe.

From then until 1455 the European pile-up continued briskly and then the Europeans abruptly dropped out, leaving V51E calling me all alone. He said he had been calling for several

minutes trying to get me through the pile with my beam on Europe. After a couple more African QSO's 20 went completely dead at 1504 and I went to 40 with 748 QSO's in the log. 40 being in its usual sad state, after one QSO with a YB I went to bed. At 1900 I was back on the band and in an hour of S&P I added 10 QSO's to the log -- all Europeans that I had called in vain the night before when the European Field Day had been on. By 2200 I had added eight more CE's and LU's to the log and was up to a QSO total of 769.

With nothing else happening, I listened to the Philippine Net begin on 7045 at 2230 GMT and monitored for a while. There are a lot more DU's on the air than you think! When things got slow for them I called in and managed a couple more numbers from DU stations. At 23:30 20 opened with K6DR answering my CQ.

No East Coast on this opening today, so I ended the last half hour of the contest with QSO's from DU1, VE7, C21 and KO6, and ended the contest with a grand total of 776 QSO's. Fifteen and twenty were almost a dead heat with just over 350 QSO's each, and forty brought up the rear with around 40 QSO's. E21CJN, who had stayed mostly on 20, reported 390 QSO's with the USA alone and was quite pleased with that. The great bulk of them were W4's, he added. I recall doing an All Asian Phone DX Contest from HS1ABD in 1979, ending up at that time with about 1100 QSO's, so the difference between high and low sunspot years must be about 350 QSO's. Anyway, it was interesting to see how things work out from the other side of the world.

You did WHAT!??

(Continued from page 6)

some discussion about how to take it down safely, the decision was reached to leave the tower up for now. We'll take it down next spring (when we can work at a comfortable (and safe) pace, then replace it with something bigger, stronger, and taller.

SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR MICHIGAN THROUGH 1995

CW Single Operator - High Power

94 WA8ZDT	195,000-1300-75
93 WA8ZDT	182,704-1202-76
93 KBCC	181,336-1193-76
91 KBCC	182,490-1185-77
90 KBCC	171,300-1142-75
83 WA8YVR	159,100-1075-74
88 KBCC	156,436-1057-74
78 KBLX	153,150-1021-75
83 KBCC	152,144-1028-74
86 KBCC	151,848-1026-74

SSB Single Operator - High Power

93 KBCC (WD81JP)	294,294-1911-77
94 WA8ZDT	263,802-1713-77
95 KBCC (WD81JP)	252,406-1639-77
94 KBCC (WD81JP)	249,942-1623-77
94 AABU	248,248-1612-77
93 AABU	239,316-1554-77
91 KBMJZ	239,008-1552-77
92 KBMJZ	236,852-1538-77
92 KBCC (WD81JP)	231,000-1500-77
90 KBMJZ	228,912-1506-76

CW Single Operator - Low Power

94 AABV	142,604-926-77
74 WBCQN	137,492-929-74
91 KW8G	134,288-872-77
93 AABV	133,912-881-76
92 KW8G	132,440-860-77
92 AABV	132,132-858-77
76 WBCQN	131,254-899-73
92 W8GM	121,650-811-75
91 AABV	116,732-758-77
75 WBCQN	116,060-829-70

SSB Single Operator - Low Power

95 AABV	206,052-1338-77
94 AABV	186,494-1211-77
94 AABV	186,032-1208-77
93 AABV	167,706-1089-77
90 NBCCX	154,924-1006-77
83 W8MGQ	154,364-1043-74
91 AABV	153,230-995-77
85 W8MGQ	151,548-1038-73
88 W8MGQ	148,808-979-76
92 NB8VT	126,588-822-77

CW Single Operator - QRP

94 KBAQM	77,400-516-75
95 WB8RUQ	61,640-460-67
92 KW8V	51,830-355-73
94 KW8V	48,528-337-72
91 KW8V	47,334-343-69
88 WB8AAX	42,600-300-71
93 KW8V	42,560-304-70
91 WB8VCF	41,538-301-69
94 WB8RUQ	40,320-315-64
91 NB8CQA	39,480-282-70

SSB Single Operator - QRP

93 WB8G	100,408-652-77
89 KB8DLH	43,216-296-73
95 W8ERN	32,850-219-75
89 WB8VWY	28,676-216-67
91 K0DD	27,950-215-65
92 NB8CQA	26,980-190-71
95 KBLJQ	21,760-170-64
94 KBLJQ	14,820-130-57
87 K8DD	11,960-130-46
88 WB8VWY	9,328-106-44

CW Multi-Operator

95 AABU	172,018-1117-77
94 AABU	164,934-1071-77
87 KBAQM	162,504-1098-74
92 KBLX	157,542-1023-77
95 KBJM	151,696-998-76
91 KBLX	147,440-970-76
94 KBJM	141,218-917-77
92 KV8H	129,514-841-77
77 W8JM	125,720-849-70
86 KBAQM	120,960-840-72

SSB Multi-Operator

95 AABU	250,250-1625-77
93 KB8JZ	246,092-1598-77
95 KB8EF	231,616-1504-77
87 KBCC	214,500-1430-75
87 NBCCX	205,050-1367-75
87 KBMJZ	204,150-1361-75
83 WD8CRY	192,992-1304-74
93 KB8CO	188,342-1223-77
91 KBLX	182,550-1217-75
81 KBSS	182,208-1248-73

SWEEPSTAKES RECORDS FOR OHIO THROUGH 1995

CW Single Operator - High Power

95 KBZ (K8NZ)	193,732-1258-77
93 KB8N (WB8IXE)	180,424-1187-76
92 KB8N (WB8IXE)	180,334-1171-77
92 WR3G	179,256-1164-77
93 KB8M	178,752-1176-76
91 WR3G	173,866-1129-77
91 KB8N (WB8IXE)	172,172-1118-77
90 KB8N (WB8IXE)	169,800-1132-75
95 W8FN	168,872-1111-76
94 W8FN	165,600-1104-75

SSB Single Operator - High Power

93 KB8N (NZ4K)	270,424-1756-77
91 KBZ (K8NZ)	238,700-1550-77
95 NB8O	235,620-1530-77
92 NZ8O	225,148-1462-77
78 WBKIC (WB8MZZ)	219,450-1463-75
81 KBND (WB8MZZ)	217,412-1469-74
76 WA8PLZ (WB8AYC)	213,014-1459-73
95 AC8E	210,672-1368-77
77 WBKIC (WB8MZZ)	208,800-1392-75
78 KBZ	207,150-1380-75

CW Single Operator - Low Power

95 KB8L	154,308-1002-77
92 KB8X	153,846-999-77
94 KB8L	150,766-979-77
94 KB8X	149,842-973-77
93 KB8L	149,264-982-76
95 NB8JEC	148,302-963-77
93 KB8X	144,298-937-77
89 KB8L	136,192-896-76
91 NB8A	132,132-858-77
88 KB8L	130,720-860-76

SSB Single Operator - Low Power

94 NB8JEC	189,266-1229-77
95 KB8L	155,848-1012-77
93 KB8L	154,616-1004-77
92 KB8L	148,610-965-77
89 KB8L	142,142-932-77
94 NBWLX/8	130,720-860-76
81 KBEE	118,114-809-73
94 KB8L	116,116-754-77
82 KBEE	113,150-775-73
93 NB8A	111,650-725-77

CW Single Operator - QRP

94 KB8FO	100,166-659-76
95 WA8RJF	83,232-578-72
92 WA8RJF	82,950-553-75
94 WA8RJF	75,460-539-70
90 KB8L	75,000-500-75
93 WA8RJF	65,036-458-71
90 WA8RJF	60,480-420-72
89 KB8ATQ	58,756-397-74
94 KB8CJA	56,576-442-64
89 WB8TDM	54,312-372-73

SSB Single Operator - QRP

93 WA8RJF	64,824-438-74
92 WB8TLC	64,064-416-77
92 WA8RJF	61,500-410-75
90 AA4YZ	50,850-339-75
89 NB8Y	47,850-319-75
94 WA8RJF	46,368-322-72
88 NB8TH	42,918-311-69
95 WA8RJF	40,256-272-74
88 NB8Y	36,938-253-73
92 AA4YZ	36,412-186-71

CW Multi-Operator

83 WB8JBM	161,616-1092-74
82 WB8JBM	154,944-1076-72
81 WB8JBM	154,322-1057-73
84 WB8JBM	150,088-1028-73
95 WD8LLD	148,918-967-77
91 NB8D	147,224-956-77
74 WB8JBM	147,022-1007-73
91 WB8DU	142,912-928-77
79 KBND	142,080-960-74
81 KBND	141,044-953-74

SSB Multi-Operator

95 KB8N	332,640-2160-77
94 KB8N	316,008-2052-77
92 KB8N	304,766-1979-77
91 KB8N	294,140-1910-77
95 WD91NF	288,750-1875-77
89 KB8N	260,106-1689-77
85 WB8JBM	255,744-1728-74
94 WD91NF	248,864-1616-77
87 WD91NF	245,100-1634-75
91 WD91NF	244,112-1606-76

MRRRC MEETING @ 11:00 AM



USECA SWAP



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1996

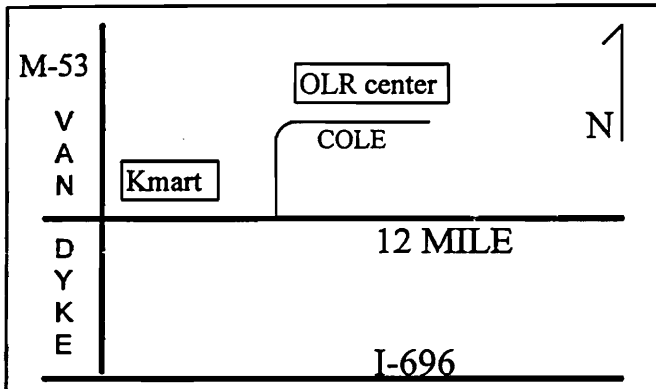
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

NEW, MORE CONVENIENT LOCATION; ALL ONE FLOOR FOR EASY ENTRY
OLR Conference Center 8525 Cole, Warren, MI

Ham radios, Scanners, CB radios, Electronic "stuff"
Computers new & used, Computer Parts and Software
Ham Radio License Testing (Pre-registration required)

Doors open early for breakfast. Stay for lunch. Real Food!

If you can't get to the food, the food and drink come to you by cart!



Admission: \$4.00 (11 and under free)
Tables \$15.00 each
Talk-in on USECA Rptr: 147.180+ (100 Hz tone)

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

Chairman:
Kevin, N8QVX, 810-636-3414

DIRECTIONS:

I-696 to Van Dyke (M-53),
North on Van Dyke 1 mile to 12 Mile Rd east,
Then first left onto Longview

VE testing pre-registration:
Bill, N8CVC, 810-468-8345

Sponsored by: Utica Shelby Emergency Communication Association, Inc.

TICKET AND TABLE RESERVATION MAIL-IN COUPON

NO.	Name _____
_____ 8' Table Rental @ \$15.00 \$ _____	Address _____
_____ Swap Tickets @ \$4.00 \$ _____	City/State/Zip _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____	Phone _____

Make checks payable to: **USECA, Inc.**

Send to: Kevin Everett 5172 Stinson, Davison, MI 48423

Treasurer's Report

By Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC
ke8oc@aol.com



We had a great turnout at the Findlay meeting with people getting caught up on their dues. Thanks!

Balance reported 8/96 \$382.20

Income

Dues received \$168.00

Income from badge order \$ 20.00

Expenses

Checking Acct Maintenance \$ 3.00

FLASH printing \$ 87.00

Balance 8/96 \$480.20

Please note that the final 1996-97 roster is in this *FLASH*. Although people can still bring their dues up to date for this year, this is the last roster we plan to print unless a LOT of changes demand it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC

Images of Findlay 1996



A group of MRRCers enjoying the Findlay Fleamarket

(l to r) Ted-VE3ZTH (I think), Frank-AA8VN, Stan-AC8W, Hank-K8DD, Jeff-N8CC, Ken-AA8AV, and Brian, W8WD



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