



# The FLASH



The Official Newsletter of the Mad River Radio Club

December 1996/January 1997

Volume 26 Issue 4

## From the MRRC 'Big Fish'

By Bruce Lallethin, AA8U  
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lence on 160M may be as well. I hope you all had fun in these events.

Next year at Dayton, I hope to nominate your new FISH. I have thoroughly enjoyed the on-the-job training so far. It has been an honor and a privilege to be your FISH. Some one of you out there will have the chance to share in this experience for the '97-'98 contest season. Are there any volunteers? Please let me know if you are interested or if you know of someone especially deserving.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all from your BIG FISH.

73, de Bruce, AA8U

It certainly was a short summer. Seems like only a month or two ago I was getting ready to head for Rarotonga. The trip to Dayton, Rarotonga, and Findlay were a few of the highlights this summer.

It didn't take long for the current contest season to spring upon us. I've entered most of the major contests so far this season with mixed results. I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing toward the Mad River Radio Club totals as I trust you have as well. Many of you have put forth very fine efforts this season, including the part time entrants that entered just to help out MRRC.

Our club project, the quest for the GAVEL, has spurred much activity and some really fine scores. During Sweepstakes, both modes, I was pleased to hear so many MRRC members participating. Wouldn't it be nice if the results were printed a bit sooner? I have a feeling we are definitely in the running for the GAVEL again this year.

I keep hearing the results of some significant antenna projects and station

improvements completed this summer. The fruits of these labors are reflected in the posted scores. Dave, K8CC finally erected some super 2-wire Beverage antennas. He can now hear better than ever on 160. Jim, K8MK has also improved his station in a number of ways, including a PHASED Beverage array! I got dusted by his station with Pat, K8LR at the controls the last couple of contests on 160. Dennis, KT8X has managed to erect a vertical at his new QTH and is participating with his modest station and promises continued improvements over time. Mike, KG8CW has dived into the multi-op mode and has produced consistently fine results. He continues to build a lean and mean contest machine down Adrian way.

Well, ARRL 160 is only a few days away so I must prepare for it. I want to have two "MRRC 160 Challenge" patches to display proudly to my BUCK-EYE friends next year at Dayton! I have to go practice my CW some more.

By the time you receive this issue, the ARRL 10M contest will be history and the inaugural Stu Perry Distance Chal-

### New MRRC Calls

AA8AV	now	W8MJ
AA8FE	now	W5FX
AA8GL	now	W8EB
AA8UG	now	K8MM
AA8UH	now	W8JJ
AA8VN	now	W8XI
K8QLK	now	K8GT
KA8D	now	W8OS
KC8EYA	now	K8MAD
KC8MK	now	K8MK
KN4RI	now	AA8R
KN8Z	now	K8RR
N8AAT	now	K8JF
N8ABL	now	N8BR
N8ATR	now	N8TR
N8JEC	now	K8JZ
NZ4K	now	K8LR
NZ8O	now	K8MZ
WA8OSE	now	W8OSE
WD8AUB	now	K4LT
WD8IJP	now	K9TM
WD8IXE	now	N8SM
WD8LLD	now	W8AV
WD9INF	now	N8KR
WM4T	now	W4ZN

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  
 k8cc@ix.netcom.com



I wonder whether anyone notices the mistakes I make in the *FLASH*? I usually use the previous month as a starting point for a new month, and I forgot to edit a few items last time. First of all, the issue (which was October-November) as marked as August-September. Also, KE8OC's treasury report shows "balance reported 8/96 and balance 8/96", which makes it look like we did not spend any money over the period. I apologize for these errors.

I received a letter and certificate from the ARRL recently commemorating our 25th year as an ARRL Affiliated Club. (Gee, if MRRC was a person, it would be eligible to join the QCWA!) In light of this occasion, over the next few issues we will present the history of MRRC from 1971 to the present. There have been a number of momentous events in MRRC history, and I think there are a lot of members today who have no idea what the "asterisk year" was, the history of MRRC Dayton Hospitality Suites, or why some of us are reserved towards the North Coast Contest Club. I joined MRRC in 1982, so I will have to tap some of our "senior" members for input.

One column to the right you will find the rules for the STEW PERRY TOP BAND LONG DISTANCE CHALLENGE. For those of you who don't know who Stew Perry was, his callsign was *W1BB* and he was one of the earliest proponents of DXing on 160M. This event was dreamed up by *KM9P* and *N6TR* as a different type of 160M contest. There are no multipliers - the exchange is grid squares and points are determined by the distance between the two stations. The contest is scheduled for the weekend between Christmas and New Years. If you can, get on - it should be a ball and it would be good if MRRC would support this new event.

So as the holiday season approaches, best holiday wishes from Radio Free Ypsilanti. Remember, I can be reached at either [dap14@chrysler.com](mailto:dap14@chrysler.com), [k8cc.ix.netcom.com](mailto:k8cc.ix.netcom.com), or via the GLPS PacketCluster system to get YOUR article in the *FLASH*.

73, de Dave, K8CC

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 ☆ Goodbye KC8EYA - thanks to the friendly folks ☆  
 ☆ at the Federal Communications Commission, ☆  
 ☆  
 ☆ MRRC's club call is now **K8MAD!** ☆  
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**Rules for the Stew Perry Top Band Long Distance Challenge**

**CONTEST PERIOD:** 1500Z December 28th to 1500Z December 29th, 1996. Operate for a maximum of 14 hours. Off time is intended to be taken during your daylight hours. Only one break may be taken between your first and last QSOs, and must be of at least 30 minutes.

**BANDS AND MODE:** 160 meters CW only.

**CATEGORIES:** Single operator or multi-operator. Only one signal shall be transmitted at a time. Remote or packet spotting shall not be used. Transmitting and receiving antennas shall be located at the same QTH.

**EXCHANGE:** Four character grid square (ie: CN85). RST is optional, but if given, shall be an accurate report. If you work a station who doesn't know their grid, you may count the QSO for one point.

**QSO POINTS:** The number of QSO points for each contact is computed by taking the distance between the centers of the two grid squares. Count a minimum of one point per QSO and an additional point for every 500 kilometers distance. For example, a QSO with a station 1750 kilometers away will count for 4 QSO points. No additional distance for long path is allowed. CT, NA, and TR software will support this contest complete with QSO point calculation.

**SCORING:** Final score equals the total number of QSO points.. There is no multiplier for different grids worked. Stations running 5 to 100 watts output multiply their score by 2. Stations running less than 5 watts multiply their score by 4. Scores will be listed separately for single ops and multi-single.

**REPORTING:** Your log can be sent in diskette form, or via the internet to [TBDC@CONTESTING.COM](mailto:TBDC@CONTESTING.COM). Paper logs can be accepted but will not be checked and will be indicated as such in the results. Logs submitted by mail must be postmarked by January 29th, 1997 and sent to:

Bill Fisher, KM9P  
 1137 Charlie Ln.  
 Lilburn, GA 30247-4203

Logs must be in ASCII format. A summary sheet may be sent, but is not required.

**JUDGING:** Logs will be checked using computer techniques to detect busted callsigns, exchanges, and not-in-log QSOs. Busted QSOs will be removed from both logs.. Unique percentages will be reported in the results. All decisions by the judges are final.



# MRRC Scores

Collected by Jim Stahl, K8MR  
k8mr@barf80.nshore.org



## CQ WW DX SSB

N8ATR	751-118-373	1.0M	+Packet
K8CC	831- 28-115	314K	15M: NE8T op.
KG8CW	402- 72-209	305K	
NT8V	318- 58-170	203K	+Packet
K8QLK	303- 58-153	167K	Low Power
AA8VN	206- 42-118	82K	+Packet
AA8U	337- 22- 72	56K	80M: +Packet
AA8UH	159- 31- 84	45K	+Packet
VE3ZTH	116- 36- 81	34K	+Packet
KU8E	90- 24- 55	17K	160-80-40 only
KT8X	69- 18- 44	10K	20M: Low Power
K8MR	59- 21- 42	10K	
K8DD/C6A			
	1308- 63-135	544K	M/S: +AC8W

## CQ WW DX CW

NU8Z	330- 71-198	243K	
K8GT	351- 69-191	235K	Low Power
K8MFO	304- 24- 97	104K	80M
K8MK	249- 19- 71		160M, K8LR op.
VE3ZTH	105- 40- 88	34K	+Packet
K8MR	112- 20- 55	23K	15M
AA8U	131- 18- 57	20K	160M: +Packet
W8XI		19K	
KT8X	94- 17- 50	16K	20M: Low Power
W8AV	2032-156-542	4.0M	M/S: +K4LT, W8RZ, KU8E, W88WTS, K3JT, AF8A
K8CC	3581-165538	6.8M	M/M: +AC8W, K8DD, K8JM, K8MM, N8CC, N8CQA, VA3EFM, VA3NA, W8MJ, W8JJ, W8RRR

## CW SWEEPSTAKES

K8CC	1211-78-188916-B	
AA8U	802-78-125112-B	
KU8E	520-70- 72800-B	
AC8W	468-78- 73008-B	
AA8UH	400-73- 58400-B	
W8FN	367-73- 53582-B	
K8MR	341-72- 49104-B	
NZ8O	345-69- 47610-B	
WD8AUB	326-73- 47596-B	
N8ATR	313-68- 42568-B	K8MR op
W9OCF	315-65- 40950-B	K8MR op
N8ET	259-73- 37814-B	
N8XPL	262-64- 33536-B	K8MR op
NT8V	161-77- 24794-B	
AA8AV	954-78-148824-A	
N8JEC	939-78-146484-A	
WD8IJP	825-78-128700-A	
K8DD	600-78- 93600-A	
K8QLK	336-74- 49728-A	
KT8X	130-50- 13000-A	
K8JM	995-78-155220-M	+AA8UG
WD8LLD	901-78-140556-M	+Packet
W8EDU	573-77- 88242-M	+AF8A, N8ARD, W88WTS @ AF8A QTH
AC8E	290-72- 41760-M	+K8MR
VE3ZTH	240-78- 37440-M	+Packet
KN4RI	176-74- 26048-M	+Packet

## SSB SWEEPSTAKES

K7UP	1839-77-283206-B	W5FX op.
K8CC	1744-78-273936-B	K9TM op.
AA8U	1587-78-247572-B	
K8MZ	1435-78-223860-B	
AA8R	899-78-140244-B	
N8ET	735-77-112882-B	
AC8E	708-78-110448-B	
W28P	651-78-101556-B	
W8OS	300-78- 46800-B	
K8MR	351-64- 44928-B	
K4LT	43-24- 2064-B	
WP2Z	1580-77-243320-A	K8MJZ op.
W8MJ	1222-78-190632-A	
K8JZ	1128-78-175656-A	
K8GT	344-72- 49536-A	
N8KR	285-75- 42750-A	
KT8X	228-73- 33288-A	
KW8N	2150-78-335400-M	+KU8E, K8LR, KF8TY
NU8Z	1580-78-246480-M	+KG8EF, K8AQM
KG8CW	1494-78-233064-M	
NT8V	962-78-150072-M	+K8DD, AC8W
VE3ZTH	157-75- 23550-M	+packet

**SS Total for Both Modes:**

**4,918,884 points from 45 eligible entries**

# Notes from the ARRL 160 Contest

**de Jim, K8MK**  
jhurt@freenet.columbus.oh.us

If we finally get thru a contest without some kind of failure, the whoop and holler will be heard 'round the world. The Ameritron AL-1500 amp died during CQ WW CW, and we had to borrow a MLA-2500 from **Goose, W8AV** in order to have an amp to use.

We did not have the phased beverage array working yet. It is currently gun deer season in Ohio and I do not care to risk being shot by Elmer Fudd, "the drunk out of his mind Deerslayer". When we get the array running, I expect we will be able to penetrate yet another layer of Europeans.

Contest highlights: 119 Mults! It was really cool to listen to Pat working the Europeans Friday nite, as many of them were as loud or louder than Stateside. We worked 148 5 point contacts, and I am pleased with that. We can do better, as we still finished 200 Q's behind **Doc, K8RR**. I guess I am going to have to work on my CW as well, and get to contest speeds.

After all this time, I finally feel as if we are on the right track, and on the verge of becoming a "serious" competitor on 160. What started out as a project to have some fun on 160, has turned into an attempt to earn some respect.

Hopefully, the Ameritron Amp will be back in service by the Stu Perry contest. The amp suffered a meltdown due to a parasitic oscillation. Nearly every silicon based life-form in the amp outside of the high voltage diode string gave up its life in a bright flash and a bang that blew the fuses on both sides of the primary. Thankfully, the ceramic metal life-form suffered no apparent damage.

**de Dave, K8CC**  
k8cc@ix.netcom.com

1996 was the seventh year that **Ken,**

**W8MJ** has done the ARRL 160 contest single-op from K8CC. I remember my skepticism the first year he walked in and proclaimed he would make 1000 QSOs (back then a top score was 800-900 QSOs). He made 1040 that year, a harbinger of rising activity levels and of things to come at K8CC...

With the exception of last year, the 120' shunt fed tower has always been able to generate really good QSO counts and crack pileups. Mediocre multiplier totals have been a problem due to poor receiving capability. We've only recently determined that the culprit in this is QRM from a local 5 KW BC station on 1480.

For this season, Ken and I built a pair of two-wire reversible beverages on adjacent farmland. Both are 880' long - one of the lengths recommended by W3LPL for good front-to-back ratio. One runs NE/SW and the other runs NW/SE, providing four directions and some discrimination against the BC QRM. Our other receiving weapon was a low (10' high) one-wavelength horizontal loop for working statesiders.

The first EU called in at 2213Z - only thirteen minutes into the contest. A few called in every hour up to EU sunrise, the condx showing surprisingly little peak. The first night yielded 73 five-point QSOs and 105 mults including VY1JA who answered a CQ!. The second night produced 30 more five pointers and five more mults, including KP3 for a clean sweep of all sections.

Ken took very little time off. He operated until around 16Z the first day, ate a sandwich and hit the sack. He was back on well before 21Z and ran until the very end at 16Z on Sunday. The final score was something around 332K, well above the division record of 284K (which Ken set two years ago).

**de Ken, N8KR**

I would guess that someone is trying to figure the outcome of the MRRC Michigan/Ohio challenge last weekend.

Here's my contribution to the cause - keep in mind I only operated maybe 13 hours, but I made the best of it: 734 QSOs, 88 mults for 133,144 points.

I had continuous good rate with no problems holding a frequency. I had three Europenas call me and I snagged many with one call!! My hastily-installed inverted-vee at 65' seemed to enjoy the great conditions. I put up a 400' beverage Saturday afternoon. I wish I would have had it Friday night.

## Next MRRC Meeting

The next meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be at the QTH of **Jim Stahl, K8MR**, on Saturday, January 4, 1997. See the map on the next page for directions to Jim's QTH on the east side of suburban Cleveland.

The K8MR Christmas Party has long been a tradition on the MRRC meeting schedule. This is the twentieth time Jim has hosted the gathering for our club, for which he probably deserves a medal.

The party begins around 7:30 PM, with the "official" meeting around 10 PM. Those of us who make the trek from out of town usually take the opportunity to visit some of Cleveland's radio-related spots of interest such as Electronic Surplus downtown and AES in Wickliffe.

Check with Jim for any late-breaking additions to the schedule. K8CC will be leading his usual expedition from Michigan, so Michiganders can check with Dave if they'd like to tag along.

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★ **DON'T FORGET!** ★

★ We need YOUR contributions for the next ★

★ MRRC Flash - start working NOW on an ★

★ article! ★

★ Deadline for publication: ★

★ **February 1, 1997** ★

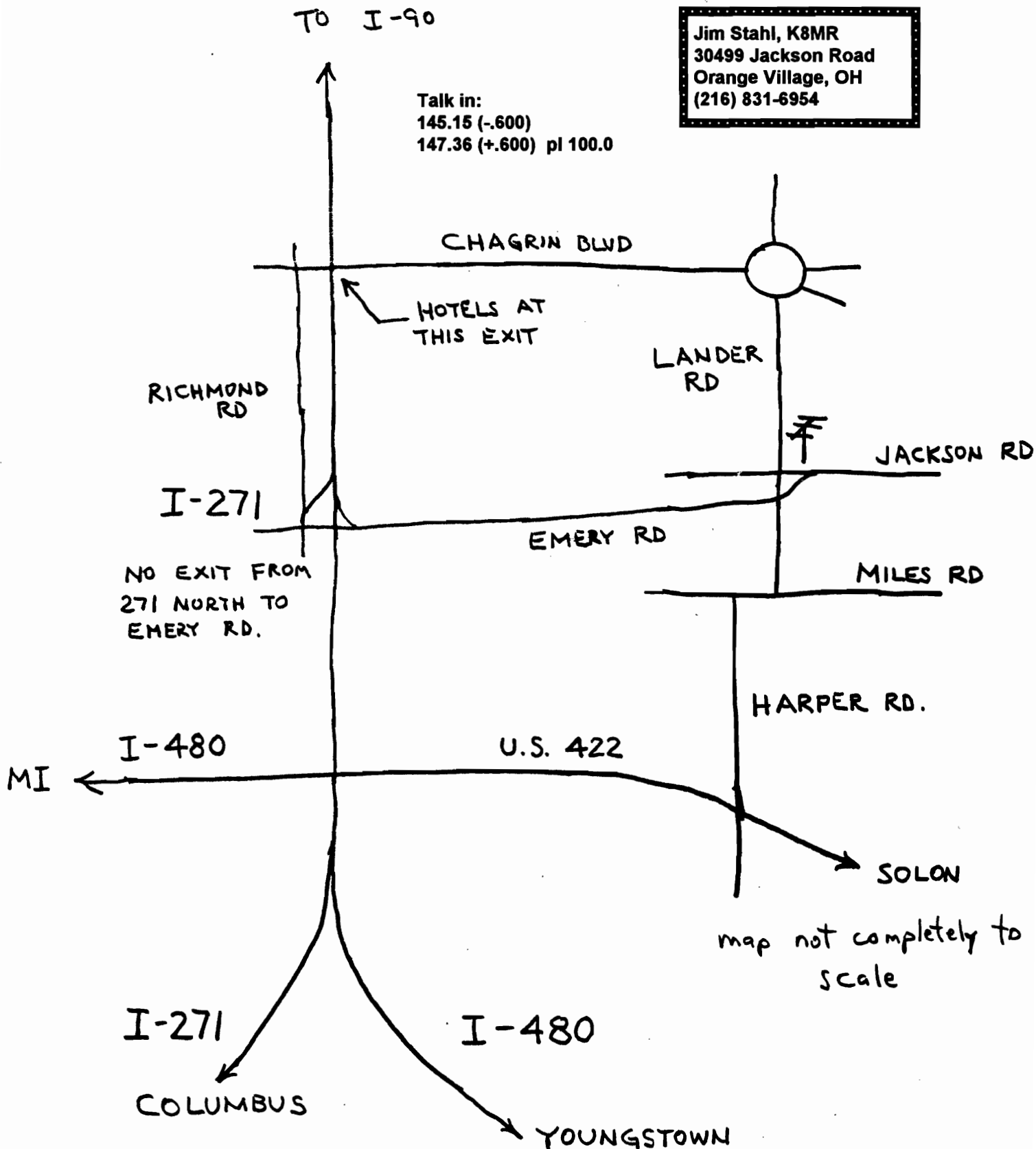
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# The 20th Annual K8MR Christmas Party and MRRC Meeting

Saturday, January 4, 1997 at 7:30 PM

Jim Stahl, K8MR  
30499 Jackson Road  
Orange Village, OH  
(216) 831-6954

Talk in:  
145.15 (-.600)  
147.36 (+.600) pl 100.0



## Treasurer's Report

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



Not much to report financially this month. Trimming the roster saved money on newsletter printing, and some dues are still trickling in. We're solvent, and things look good for the second half of MRRRC year.

<u>Balance reported 10/96</u>	\$480.20
<u>Income</u>	
Dues received	\$12.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Checking Acct Maintenance	\$ 6.00
FLASH printing	\$ 79.00
<u>Balance 12/96</u>	\$407.20

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tim O'Sullivan, KE8OC

## MRRRC Profile: Tim Eklin, W8JJ

Tim was first licensed in September, 1992 as N8VOD. His first contact was with a KP4 on 10M SSB and he has been hooked on radio ever since. As he worked his way up the licensing ladder, he held the call signs KG8CL, AA8UH, and finally a long-awaited vanity callsign, W8JJ.

The W8JJ station consists of a TS-850, Alpha 91B, Nye-Viking tuner, a TH-7 at 52', a rotatable 40M dipole at 55', and an 80M 1/4 sloper which he tunes for 160M use, plus an E/W unterminated 80M beverage. One of the aspects of the hobby that he enjoys the most is low band DX'ing, mostly 40M/80M. He likes CW DX'ing and contesting, but will also run in a domestic SSB contest too, SS, CQ160, etc.

Tim has worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections the last 9 years, and is currently the Transfer Coordinator at the Thumb Correctional Facility where he is in charge of transferring and receiving inmates to and from other prisons. He has been married two years to Jennifer Eklin and as yet they don't have any children. Tim's dad is also an ham, K8ZZ.



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