

MRRC CALENDAR

K8MR Christmas Party And MRRC Meeting January 9, 7:30 PM EST

North American QSO Party - CW January 9-10

North American QSO Party - SSB January 16-17

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes January 23-25

CQ WW 160 Meter Contest - CW January 29-31

NCJ North American Sprint -Phone February 7 (UTC)

NCJ North American Sprint - CW February 14 (UTC)

ARRL International DX Contest -CW February 20-21

CQ WW 160 Meter Contest - SSB February 26-28

ARRL International DX Contest -SSB March 6-7

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From the 'Big Fish'

By Jeff Clarke, KU8E ku8e@compuserve.com



Season Greetings from the *Big Fish*! I hope everyone had as good of a 1998 as we did here. The year started out for me as part of the **VP5FXB** operation in *ARRL CW* (great fun as usual). During the spring we did a big multi-multi operation from **K8CC** in *WPX SSB* using my call. We ended up 2^{nd} place in the USA...not bad for the first time out. I did the usual low power effort in *CW SS*, but came up a little short of the 1000 Q barrier. For *CQWW CW* we did multi-multi from **W8AV** and made over 4000 QSOs with great conditions and a preview of what's to come next year. The contesting year ended for me at **K8MK**, for the *ARRL 160 contest* with good QSO totals but less DX compared to previous years.

The past year was also rewarding for me from a personal and professional standpoint. At work I have been helping out on the Y2K problem and have enjoyed the financial benefits from that. The end of this year brought me a promotion and a shift from doing mainframe development over to the PC world, which I am excited about. On the personal side, I found the person I want to spend my life with. Jan and I will be married in January 1999.

As we look toward 1999 the first order of business is to have some fun! That means it's time for the annual **K8MR** New Years' party to be held on Saturday January 9th. In 1999 it will also be time for me to turn over the reins of *Big Fish* to someone else. Due to other commitments I will not be able to run for office again. So start thinking about those nominations.

Dayton should be different this year since we decided to discontinue having the suite. At the Findlay meeting, **K8AQM** came forward and offered to organize the "1st annual *Mad River Flea Market Suite*". It will be a place for that weary contester to stop by for a cold drink and some contest gossip during their trek through the flea market. I'm sure Ted will need support in this effort.

A number of us on the net have also been talking about an informal get-together on Saturday night of Dayton. We are planning on either the burger joint across from the Crown Plaza that **W8AV**, **K8MFO**, and myself eat at. Another choice might be the Chinese place that **K8MR** frequents, which is just down the street. I you have any other suggestions let me know.

Happy New Years from the KU8E family, and until next time

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The FLASH

The Editor's Keyboard



By Dave Pruett, K8CC k8cc@ix.netcom.com

Happy New Year MRRC! I hope everyone had a great holiday and that Santa left something for the station under your Christmas Tree (Yaesu, Alpha, or Force12 would be nice).

The Artist Formerly Known as Prince wrote a song called "1999" way back in 1982 (it sure seemed far off then) that to me sums up where MRRC is at right now. To paraphrase:

Two thousand, zero, zero, Party's over, oops, out of time So this year I'm gonna contest like it's 1999

Right now I feel MRRC is standing at a crossroads. Our membership base is shifting - some of our older, long-time members have begun to cut back their activities while new members come in to take their place. (It should be noted that most of these new members are not new hams, just new to MRRC.) This trend is happening all throughout contesting, so its not just affecting our club.

Along with this change in membership base comes changes in club traditions. For fourteen years our club has sponsored a hospitality suite at Dayton. Due to dwindling attendance and the high cost of hosting the suite, this year we've decided to try something different - a club hospitality area out at the Dayton Fleamarket where contesters can drop by for a beverage and rest their weary feet. At the Findlay meeting **Ted, K8AQM** stepped forward to take charge of the preparations for the hospitality area, but he will need help.

MRRC is a club of traditions. The good ones (K8MR Party, Findlay, etc.) form the cornerstone of the club's year while the non-popular ones fall by the wayside. MRRC needs new traditions, however making traditions happen is a lot of work. The fleamarket hospitality area brings many new challenges and tasks if its to be done well. Much needs to be done ahead of time - reserve fleamarket spots, transport the trailer, etc. But there are also tasks *during* the Hamvention too, such as manning the tables, making beverage runs, etc. Knowing Ted, the hospitality area won't fail due to lack of effort on his part, but let's all jump in and help so he won't have to carry the burden along and burn out.

The solar cycle is now clearly in the upswing, so it's time to get on and contest like its 1999! But let's also make sure that by 2000 the party isn't over, and MRRC out of time.

73, de Dave, K8CC

Treasurer's Report





Not too much fiscal activity for the club this month. Makes my job easy...

FLASH Printing	·	66.00	
FLASH Printing Balance 1/99	·	66.00 726.74	



CLUB BUSINESS AT THE CHRISTMAS MEETING

There are a number of items of club business to be discussed at the Christmas meeting at K8MR's:

- 1. Discuss plans for the Fleamarket Hospitality area at the Dayton Hamvention.
- 2. Support of the Michigan QSO Party by MRRC members in Michigan.
- 3. Discuss MRRC Challenge rules, specifically points shares for station hosts.
- 4. MRRC teams for the February NCJ Sprints.
- 5. Appointing "area managers" to monitor, assist, and report an MRRC activities in Michigan, NW Ohio, NE Ohio, Southern Ohio, and Kentucky.

All MRRC members should try to attend the meeting to make your voice heard on these important matters.

MRRC Scores

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

SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY

WA8RC	JF		K8MR
50	45	21	50 92 34
144	103	37	144 110 33
222	41	25	222 34 20
432	54	30	432 57 25
903	8	7	tot: 293 112
1.2G	19	13	score: 43,008
2.3G	2	2	
5.7G	1	1	
tot:	273	136	

	SWEEPSTAKES	
CW		
K9TM KU8E	1057-79-164,892-A 944-79-149,152-A	
K8CC W8AJ N8TR K8AZ AC8E K8RM K8MR	555-74- 82,140-B 8 hrs 303-73- 44,238-B K8MR op. 300-72- 43,200-B K8MR op. 292-70- 40,800-B K8MR op. 300-64- 38,400-B K8MR op. 256-67- 34,438-B K8MR op. 231-70- 32,340-B K8MR op.	
W8RU K8DD N8ET K8MFO N8CQA	609-78- 95,004-Q 425-79- 67,150-Q 121-58- 14,036-Q 79-79- 12,462-Q 43-29- 2,924-Q	
K4LT AA8U W8AV	1150-79-181,700-M +K9NW,W8RZ 1089-79-172,062-M +K8MJZ,N8NX, ND5S,WX3M 1032-79-162,898-M +AF8A	
SSB		
AC8E K8MR KU8E	765-79-120,870-В 608-75- 91,200-В 101-41- 8,282-В	
KW8N K8CC	2003-79-316,474-M +K9NW,KF8TY 1951-79-308,258-M +K9TM,KT8X, N8KR,WD8S	
NT8V	WR8W 651-78-101,556-M +AC8W,K8DD, KB8WMW,N8CQA	,

			•		
SSB					
K8MR KA8PTT K8MK	595 95 300 59 200 15	154	585,18 171,03 N8VW c	39	
AA8U M/S	160 80 40 20 15 10 tot:	32 129 132 429 830 227 1779	11 19 25 36 35 29 155	21 60 78 126 138 112 535	ops AA8U, K8KS,K8MJZ, N8NX,ND5S, KF8QE,KT8X, W8EB,W8MJ 3,316,140
CW					
K8MR	1030-1	09-283	1,170,5	12	13 hrs
к8СС М/М	160 80 40 20 15 10 tot:	68 431 1348 1467 1356 1065 5735	16 29 37 37 36 34 189	37 100 134 147 128 128 674	ops AC8W, K8CC,K8DD, K8JM,K8MM, K9TM,N8CQA, W8MJ,WD8S 14,048,777
W8AV M/M	160 80 40 20 15 10	98 385 1134 1380 1222 734	21 26 37 37 35 31	53 96 125 145 129 119	ops K3JT, K4LT,K8KM, K8RF,KU8E, N8DCJ,W8AV W8RZ,W8WTS

CQWW

ARRL 160 METER

K8XXX	1349-97-268,593	@N8CC +K8AQM,NU8Z,KG8CO,N8JF, K8BK,K8JJC,K8KS
K8MK	1251-93-240,000	@WR8C
		+KU8E,N8VW,K8ZD,WR8C
AA8U	1036-91-194,558	
K8CC	1027-84-175,056	W8MJ op.
К9ТМ	400-59- 47,377	
W8RU	279-48- 26,784	QRP
AC8E	170-50	

ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

 W8AV
 1419-130-738,400

 KT8X
 802-103-330,424

 K8MR
 294-118-111,392

 KA8PTT
 160-69-22,080

 K9TM
 153-60

CW HP CW HP MIX HP SSB LP

2 4 hrs



The 22nd Annual K8MR Christmas Part and MRRC meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9, 1999 starting at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come join in on what is one of the highlights of the MRRC year.

K8MR is located on the east side of the Cleveland metropolitan area in Orange Village, OH. The best way to K8MR is via I-271 which runs north/south on the east side of Cleveland. If you're coming from the south, Jim advises that since last year the construction of the Iinterchange has been 480/I-271 completed. There are now two exits from I-480 east to I-271 north, one for local and one for the express lanes. The exit is not very well marked. The local lanes is the second exit, exiting to the left. If you are getting off I-271 at Chagrin Blvd (where the motels are) you must take the local lanes exit. There is no exit to Chagrin Blvd. from the express lanes.

From I-271, there are two exit opportunities: If you're coming from the north, you can take the **Emery Road** exit and follow Emery east to **Lander Road** and turn north. (Note: northbound I-271 does not have an exit at Emery.) The next street is Jackson, and K8MR is on the northeast corner ahead and to your right.

From either the north or south, get off at the **Highway 422/87** exit (also called Beechwood or Moodmere). Take Highway 87 east until you come to a traffic circle. Follow the traffic circle to the right about one fourth of the way around and exit the circle on **Lander Road** heading south. Follow Lander to Jackson Road. K8MR is on the northeast corner to your left.

The party generally runs until the participants go home.(11PM - ???). For



those coming from out-of-town, there are a number of motels right at the Highway 422/87 exit, such as TravelLodge, Holiday Inn, etc. which are within a short driving distance of the K8MR QTH.

There are a number of other amateur radio things to do before heading over to the K8MR's. Amateur Electronic Supply has a store in nearby Wickcyffe, and a number of MRRCers have made a habit of stopping by Electronic Surplus downtown to peruse the available goodies. Former MRRC member Tom Lee, K8AZ and is only about a fifteen minute drive away and hosts an open house at his fine contest station with pizza and beverages at 4 PM prior to the activities at Jim's.

Hope to see everyone in Cleveland!

The FLASH

MRRC Challenge Results

By Dennis Ward, KT8X kt8x@mci2000.com

After many years of dedicated work, **Jim Stahl, K8MR** passed along the reigns of MRRC Challenge scorekeeper to me at Dayton. Many thanks to Jim for his explanations, files, and assistance. I was going to begin with the 1997-98 Challenge, whose season is ended with the fall '98 Sprints, when K8CC urged me to start by compiling the '96 - '97 MRRC Challenge results. With Dave's help, and the copy machines at the Michigan State Library, I was able to compile the necessary data.

First, it would be best to review the rules. The purpose is to reward those individuals who generate points for the club. To be eligible for the MRRC Challenge, one must only be a MRRC member (i.e., ARRL eligibility rules do not apply). Several members did operate contests, but points were not credited to MRRC so unfortunately, their hard work was not logged in the challenge.

Certain contests starting with CQWW SSB in October through the NCJ Sprints in September are applicable to the MRRC Challenge. Each entry receives a point value based on their score, pro-rated against the winning score for their category. The Challenge is broken into 3 categories as applicable to the particular contest rules: single-op, multi-single, and multi-multi.

The points breakdown are as follows (16850 maximum points possible):

2000 for CQWW and ARRL DX (each mode) 1000 for SS (each mode) 750 for CQ & ARRL 160, ARRL 10, WPX, & IARU HF 200 for NAQP and SPRINT (each mode)

An entry receives receives points equal to:

(their score ÷ winning score x contest maximum points)

Single-ops are credited for all points received by the entry. Currently, this includes guest ops (such as K9TM running SS @ K8CC), however should the host station owner receive points as well for their hard work in assembling the station and making it available?

Multi-operator entries are handled somewhat differently. The host of the multoperator entry is credited with 50% of the points received by the entry. The other 50% is distributed evenly between the remaining operators who are MRRC members. Perhaps this ratio is biased too heavily toward the station host? A more equitable approach would be to divide the score between all the MRRC members present, with the station owner receiving an extra share for hosting the effort.

The score breakdowns are rather interesting, and only the final results are published for simplicity. However, it is worth noting that certain contests can really produce points and keep the competition fierce. The "Bang for the Buck" contest is without a doubt SS. W8's fair very well against the winners, and can achieve nearly the maximum point value - especially valuable for single ops. Although the 4 major DX contests have the potential for big points, it requires some effort. Also, operating every contest does add up, especially if certain contests are targeted for maximum point value. What's your strategy?

Resi	
1996-97 MRR	C Challenge
K8CC	2624
AA8U	2587
W8MJ	2436
W8AV	1785
KW8N	1686
K9TM	1267
KU8E	1201
KG8CW	1136
NU8Z	1004
K8MR	954
K8RR	875
N8TR	838
K8DD	777
K4LT	714
K8MZ	632
AC8W	509 406
K8JZ K8JM	496 495
NT8V	493 460
K8SIA	400
W8JJ	416
AC8E	383
W8FN	359
WA8RJF	326
K8MK	318
K8GL	300
K8LR	286
K8AQM	269
K8GT	229
WZ8P	206
W8RZ	205
K8KS	205
AF8A	205
KT8X	203
N8CQA	190
N8ET	169
W8WTS	135
VE3ZTH	135
N8CC	130
W8XI	105
N8HTT	78
N8KR	74
K8ND	54
W8RU	51
K8MFO	34

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CLUB RESOURCES

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The *FLASH* is the official newsletter of the **Mad River Radio Club**, and is published six times per year in evennumbered months. Submissions of material for the *FLASH* are welcome, and may be sent to the editor at the address shown above.

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 **KE80C**. Please make checks out to **Tim O'Sullivan**, not MRRC.

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.

Also, come join in with other MRRC members on-line with the free **MRRC Internet Reflector**. To join, send an email to **MRRC-REQUEST@contesting.com**. The body of the e-mail should say **subscribe mrrc yourcall**. You'll receive an e-mail confirmation in a few hours.

MRRC member badges can be ordered for \$10 through Buck Switzer, N8CQA at n8cqa@tir.com.



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