



From the Big Fish

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Upcoming Events

7-April

K8CC Cabin Fever

Meeting

21-April

Michigan QSO Party

18-20 May

Dayton Hamvention

Meeting on Saturday,

Suite in the Sun

One of the things about MRRC that I am the most pleased with is the activity our club has generated in many of the smaller contests on the schedule. The “big” contests such as CQWW and ARRL DX get a lot of attention, but the levels of competition are such that it takes a big station to be competitive. Contests like the NAQP and the Sprints offer modest stations a chance to be a BSOB (that’s “Big Station On Band). MRRC’s teams recently have finished well in these events and made the club proud.

There are two other events on the contest calendar where I think MRRC ops could be BSOBs; that is, the **Michigan (MiQP) and Ohio (OhQP) QSO Parties**. When the subject of a state QSO party is brought up, I think many contesters turn off. I myself was that way for a lot of years with the Michigan event – the operating period was way too long and the rules seemed to encourage everyone to sit on 40 SSB and work club stations for bonuses. MRRC got into sponsoring of the Michigan and Ohio QSO Parties in 1999. The first thing we did was cut back the operating periods to twelve hours – from noon to midnight local on Saturday, making the contest a one-day affair with a casual get-up before the contest to boot. The rules were trimmed down and focused on on-air operating, with fine-tuning of the entry categories to balance participant interest with manageable complexity. The results have been some pretty cool contests for those who have participated. The results, in terms of the number of logs submitted



The ‘Big Fish’ hard at work at Windwood, VI.

have been disappointing. Entries in the MiQPs (for which I have the numbers) have been in the sixties for the two years since MRRC took over. This is roughly the same as the pre-MRRC MiQPs, but is disappointing when you consider that the FIQP (which has been rejuvenated for only three years) gets around 300 logs and the PaQP (probably one of the oldest QSO parties) gets over

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Editor’s Notes

Tim Mitchell, K9TM k9tm@buckeye-express.com

Jeff mentioned in the last Flash that he was stepping down as the editor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeff on behalf of the club for his time and efforts as Flash Editor.

I have picked up the edit-

ing of the Flash and will also continue the efforts started by Jeff to bring the Flash to the web site. Not that the web version will replace the paper version but rather provide an additional delivery mechanism and archive for those who are interested in utilizing it.

Just a reminder that this is not my newsletter, it is our newsletter. If you are interested in writing for the Flash or have an idea of something you would like to see written in the Flash, please contact me.

73, Tim/K9TM

From the Big Fish (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

600. OhQP runs pretty similar to MiQP.

However, there are some positive signs for our QSO parties. In the 2000 MiQP results, over 10K QSOs were reported, and there were al-

most 2K unique callsigns in the logs. We got all 83 MI counties QRV in MiQP 2000, and came within three that same year in OhQP.

The MI and OH QSO parties are important to MRRC. As sponsors these contests carry our name so a certain portion of our reputation is tied to the success or failure of these events. MRRC is pretty well represented at the top of many of the MiQP and OhQP categories. At the same time, MRRC itself can do more to generate on-the-air activity.

I would like to encourage

"I would like to encourage every MI and OH MRRC station to plan to be active in their state's QSO party..."

(From the Big Fish)

MRRC Profiles: W8AJ

By Goose Steingrass, W8AV w8av@aol.com

Although Allan Jaffe, W8AJ has been a member of the Mad River Radio Club for nearly 5 years, he refers to himself as one of our newer members. He was introduced to the club and contesting by Jim Stahl, K8MR.

Allan's ham radio career began back in the early 60's. He learned about the hobby by one of his father's cousins, K8ZNT. Allan says, "I would go over to his house, see his station, and that was it. I wanted to be a ham." Allan also mentions that he had another ham radio cousin, W2EIK, in New York that provided even more family impetus for him and his father, Jay, to get into the hobby. Allan was first licensed as a Technician Class operator in 1962 and was issued the call WA8EER, which he held until 1993. In that year he changed his call to N8XPL and in 1996 he applied for W8AJ in the extra class vanity call sign window. Allan mentions that it took Jay took a while longer to become li-

censed.

"My Dad always wanted to become a ham and as a kid had many friends who were," he remembers. He goes on to say that Jay was almost 70 when he finally took the big leap he became licensed as W8AJ.

Allan's hobbies outside of Amateur Radio include music, with a main focus on following the Cleveland Orchestra; baseball, namely the Cleveland Indians; and backpacking. (Bet you can't guess what city Allan is from?)

Ham radio interests include DXing and of course contesting. He lists K8MR as his contesting mentor, although he also credits Tom Lee, K8AZ and Pete Michaelis N8TR for providing him with some insight into Amateur Radio and contesting. Allan's station has also been one of the stops on the K8MR "Single-Operator-Multi-Station" route for the CW Sweepstakes over the past four to five years. He mentions that Jim garnered a First Place Ohio finish from W8AJ in 1998.

every MI and OH MRRC station to plan to be active in their state's QSO party; if not full-time, then perhaps at least for a few hours. There are never enough "in-state" stations for the "out-state" people to work, so with more "in-state" activity more QSOs will be made, scores will be up and perhaps more logs will be submitted.

There are lots of reasons to get on for either MiQP or OhQP. Both are only twelve hours long so operating the contest does not shoot a weekend. With the mobiles jumping between counties, SO2R (two-radio single-op) is a tremendous asset to your

score. If you don't have a SO2R setup, borrow a second rig, re-arrange your antennas or coaxes and try it. If SO2R is not in the cards, try learning to use your sub-receiver or VFO B to grab extra mults or QSOs. The QSO party weekends are a great opportunity for experimentation and to try new things.

The next meeting on the MRRC schedule is **2nd Annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape and Pre-MiQP MRRC Meeting on April 7, 2001**. See the notice elsewhere in this newsletter and we'll hope to see everyone there!

73, Dave/K8CC



Goose at the controls of W8AV

The station consists of an Icom 781, Alpha 76 amplifier, and several pieces of Collins equipment. The W8AJ antenna farm boasts five element mono-banders for 20 and 15 meters which are at 80 feet and 90 feet, respectively, above ground level. Allan also uses a dipole for 80 meters.

Allan's biggest contest kick has been operating with the K8MR/K8MAD Field Day crew over the past few years. He would like to see this yearly event become one of the Club's major operating events. "AJ" has watched the club's participation in Field Day grow over the past few years from just four to five operators to an event that now includes some of our Michigan and Western Ohio members. He mentions that he also enjoys attending the meetings at Dayton and at various member's homes and feels that MRRC is a great club to belong to.

Allan resides at 31099 Gates Mills Boulevard in

Cleveland with his wife Ruth and #2 son David, 15, who attends Orange High School. His first son, Michael, 20, who attends Indiana University. Allan works in the commercial real estate business.

73, Goose/W8AV

"Allan's biggest contest kick has been operating with the K8MR/K8MAD Field-Day crew over the past few years."

(From MRRC Profiles)

Michigan QSO Party

The 2001 Michigan QSO Party is Saturday 21-April from 1600Z to 0400Z 22-April (noon Saturday until Mid-night Saturday Eastern time).

See the Michigan QSO Party pages on the MRRC web site for complete rules as well as the results from last year @ <http://www.qsl.net/mrrc>.

2001 MQP Mobile Plans

SE LP: (W8AV w/AF8A)

MONR,WAYN,OAKL,MACO,STCL,SANI,HURO,TUSC,LAPE,GENE,SAGI,GRAT,CLIN*,SHIA,INGH, LIVI,WASH (10:19)

SW LP: (K8XXX w/K8AQM, et al)

JACK,CALH,EATO,CLIN*,IONI,MONT,KENT,OTTA,ALLE,BARR,KZOO,VA NB,BERR,CASS,STJO, BRAN,HILL,LENA (9:24)

NE LP: (K8MR w/W8DRZ)

BAY,AREN,OGEM,IOSC,ALCO,OSCO,MONT,ALPE,PRES,CHEB,OTSE,CRAW,ROSC,GLAD,CLAR,ISAB,MIDL (9:38)

NW LP: (W8RU w/N8NHC)

OSCE,MISS,KALK,ANTR,CHAR,EMME,GRTR,LEEL,BENZ,MANI,WEXF,LAKE,MASO,OCEA,MUSK,N

EWA,MECO (9:01)

UP: (K8CC w/W8MJ)

MARQ,BARA,HOUG,KEWE,ONTO,GOGE,IRON,DICK,MENO,DELT,ALGE,SCHO,LUCE,CHIP,MACK (11:32)

LP - Lower Peninsula

UP - Upper Peninsula

Treasurer Report

By Buck Switzer, N8CQA

n8cqa@tir.com

Sorry, no treasurer report available.

K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MQP Meeting



The second annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MQP MRRC meeting is on Saturday 7-April 2001 @ 12 noon. This meeting is becoming one of the regular scheduled MRRC meeting.

Normal MRRC business will be discussed as well as emphasis on the Michigan QSO Party. Come and make one of your two meeting, come to add to the MQP discussions or just come to BS about radio stuff and see the K8CC station.

Directions:

From the North or South:

Scenic Route

- US23 to Geddes Rd (exit 39) and go East
- Follow Geddes Rd to Prospect (light) go North (left)
- Follow Prospect to Cherry Hill go East (right)
- Follow Cherry Hill to Harris go South (right)

Faster Route

- US23 to US14 East
- US14 to RT153/Ford Road (exit 10)
- Follow Ford Rd to Prospect (light) go South (right)
- Follow Prospect to Cherry Hill go East (left)
- Follow Cherry Hill to Harris go South (right)

From the East or West:

- Take whatever route is most convenient 94/96/696 to get to US23. Then follow N/S directions.

(Harris and Cherry Hill are dirt roads)

Contest Club of Finland Trip

Mike Tessemer, K9NW k9nm@qth.com

Sometime last summer I stumbled across a URL that pointed to pictures of the 2000 Contest/DX Meeting sponsored by Contest Club Finland. It looked like pretty neat event and I made a mental note to try and attend it some day. Later in the year, I emailed OH2IW to inquire about the dates for the 2001 event. I knew an additional week of vacation was coming my way and thought that maybe "someday" could come sooner than first thought. Pasi emailed back that the dates and place had been set - January 19-20, Tampere, Finland. I tossed the idea around for a while and in early December decided "Let's do it!"

The first step was booking flights. Settled on Cincinnati to Stockholm via Paris. I'd spend a couple days in Stockholm and then fly over to Tampere, take in the meeting, then back home. Since I had never been anywhere in Europe before, this was going to be a bit of an "express" tour, cramming as much as I could into the short time I allotted. After flights were arranged, I made the necessary hotel reservations and waited for departure day. In the meantime, I made plans to meet with some of the SM contingent and also sent my schedule on to Pasi.

Tuesday afternoon, January 16, found me at the Cincinnati airport about two hours before departure. Checkin took about three minutes and I made my way to the gate to hang out. Boarding time finally comes for Delta 44 to Paris. I found my seat, stashed my bag, and proceeded to read USA Today while the rest of the passengers board. Lost track of time but when I looked at my watch, I noticed it was already about twenty minutes past scheduled departure time. A short time later the inevitable announce-

ment came that there was a "maintenance issue" they were resolving and more info would be available in a few minutes. Well, more info came, and we were informed that we would be deplaning and boarding a different plane. This is always fun! Deplane, hang out, and finally board the new plane and take off two hours late. This was going to make things interesting in Paris for connections.

The flight to Paris was uneventful (just the way I like 'em.) The seating on the Boeing 767 is 2-3-2 and I was lucky to have seats A and B all to myself. Ate a meal, read the latest issue of Maxim, watched the movie, slept a little and we arrived in Paris Wednesday morning. We were parked in some out of the way place in Charles de Gaulle Airport and had to be bussed to the terminal. I knew it was going to be close but I was still fairly sure I'd make my connection. Besides, things were going to go at their own pace so there was nothing to do but go with the flow. The bus dropped us at Terminal C where it is learned that I now had to catch a bus to Terminal B. This is not good. Finally the bus came and whisked us to B. I checked the monitor inside and hastily made my way to Gate 34. The friendly Gendarme tells me "Sorry, the gate (flight) is closed." FIVE minutes!!! Mumbled something about why they couldn't have dropped us at B in the first place and then I set off to find an Air France service desk. The next flight to Stockholm wasn't for another five hours but I was rebooked. They said they'd send a message to Stockholm to tell Carlos, SM0KCO that I would be coming in later. So I waited.

There's really not a lot to do in Terminal B of CDG. I cashed in the meal voucher I

was given at the snack bar, browsed the newsstand on one end of the terminal, browsed the newsstand on the other end of the terminal, bought a couple souvenirs of my "stay" in France, and basically watched people. It was interesting, however, to see flights going to places like Douala (TJ), Tunis (3V), Bamako (TZ) and other cool DXCC places! One guy at the service desk was from 3B8 going to Moscow. Don't see that in CVG or DAY too often!! Finally, it was about 4PM and it was time for the flight to Stockholm. Everything is on time and we're off.

Air France rules! I didn't expect a full meal on a two hour flight! I didn't expect wine with the meal - for no charge! I didn't expect unlimited bread! We got all of that! Air France rules!!

We were on final approach into Stockholm when suddenly the pilot guns the engines. Nothing like the good ol' aborted landing! We circled around and tried again. This one went as planned....7:10PM and I'm finally in Stockholm. Now the only question is whether or not anyone would be waiting for me. As it turned out Carlos did, indeed, get the message (Air France rules!) and was waiting for me outside of immigration along with Teemu, SM0WKA. Plans were to visit the SKOUX station on Wednesday afternoon and even hand out a few rare SM/K9NW QSOs but my late arrival nixed that. We drove to my hotel, checked in, and had dinner with a few other SM contesters. We hung out till about 10PM and then it was time cash in....it had been a long day.

Thursday was my "Joe Tourist" day. I slept in until about 10AM and spent the rest of the day wandering around Stockholm, adding yet another Hard Rock T-shirt to my collection and picking up a few other souvenirs. Noticed that it was starting to get darker

around 3:30PM and realized that I was quite a bit north!

Friday was departure day for OH-land. I made my way to Central Station in Stockholm and caught the Arlanda Express (high speed train) to the airport. Joining me at the gate were OZ1AA, SM3DMP, SM3SGP, SM5AOE, SM5DJZ, and SM0AJU. The SAS flight was on time and we were off to Tampere. Somewhere below us was OH0 but the cloud cover prevented any peeks of OH0Z, et al. We arrived at the Tampere Airport and were met by some of the OH contingent who provided maps showing the way into town and the hotel.

Friday night there was an informal, though sizable, gathering of attendees at a small restaurant near the Hotel Laapinkaari. Had some good radio discussion, several beers, and a little Finlandia vodka, with the likes of K3NA, RA3AUU, LA9HW, JK3GAD, and a host of others. About 11PM or so, things broke up and we made our way back to hotel.

I woke up about 8:30 Saturday morning....it was still dark! I realized I was even further north. Got ready and went down to the breakfast room and met a few more attendees. The meeting didn't start till 11:30. About 10:30 I headed over to the Tampere Spa Hotel, the location of the meeting. As a reward for being one of the early arrivals, I was appointed team captain for a little "contest" that was to take place during the meeting. Registered, picked up my name/call badge, dinner ticket, and mingled.

The meeting started off with a welcome from Master of Ceremonies OH6EI. Then the aforementioned "contest." Two teams, HOLE (my team) and HOLY set up "stations" on each end of the room. The teams also consisted of the "station technician," the "feedline," the "antenna" along with the "storm" and "QRM" whose

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Score Rumors

January NAQP CW			
W8EDU	961	217	208,537
N8EA	766	240	183,840
W8MJ	758	217	164,486
K8ND	732	224	163,968
K9TM	608	200	121,600
NU8Z	520	168	87,360
K8JM	440	172	75,680
K8MR	449	177	79,473
K5IID	400	168	67,368
WX3M	424	157	66,568
K8CC	380	171	64,980
K8GT	395	157	62,015
ND8DX	265	123	32,595
K9NW	243	94	22,842
K8AAX	207	101	20,907
W8RU	169	97	16,393
KU8E	186	78	14,508

MRR1: VE3EJ, N9RV, K8ND, K9TM, N8VW
MRR2: AD8J, K8JM, K5IID, NU8Z, K8DX
MRR3: ND8DX, K8GT, K8NZ, K8MR, N8ET
MRR4: W8RU, K8AAX, W8MJ, N8EA, W8EDU
MRR5: KU8E, K9NW, K8CC, W8GN, WX3M
W8EDU: AF8A, W8RZ, W8WTS

January NAQP SSB			
KU8E	883	240	211,920
W8MJ	879	239	210,081
K8ND	826	233	192,458
K9TM	844	227	191,588
NU8Z	673	186	125,178
ND8DX	554	176	97,504
K8MR	396	156	61,776
N8EA	358	158	56,564
K8CC	235	116	27,260
W8DRZ	184	87	16,008
K8AAX	136	70	9,520
WX3M	100	50	5,000

MRR1: KU8E, K8ND, N8VW, K9TM, W8MJ
MRR2: ND8DX, K5IID, N9RV, K8MR, NU8Z
MRR3: N8ET, K8AAX, K8GT, K8LN, W8DRZ
MRR4: K8CC, N8EA, W8GN, AD8J, K8DX

SSB SPRINT			
N8VW	345	48	16,560
K8DX	332	46	15,272
K9TM	310	46	14,260
K8ND	280	47	13,160
ND8DX	273	46	12,558
N8EA	258	41	10,578
N8KR	200	42	8,400
K8CC	174	38	6,612
N8ET	20	11	220
K8MR	18	8	144

Team Score: 97,764 (MRR)

CW SPRINT			
N8EA	300	48	14,400
K8CC	310	46	14,260
KU8E	310	46	14,260
KW8N	288	47	13,536
K9TM	240	46	11,040
K8ND	247	44	10,868
K8JM	231	46	10,626
K8MR	180	43	7,740
W8MJ	113	38	4,294

Team Score: 101,024 (MRR)

ARRL DX SSB			
K8GL	1882	367	2,072,082
K5IID	1100	288	950,400
W8MJ	853	262	670,458
ND8DX	1370	107	439,128
N8KR	487	219	319,959
KU8E	914	113	309,846
K8ND	771	118	272,934

ARRL DX CW			
K9NW	3153	444	4,199,796
K8GT	830	277	689,730
K8JM	785	225	529,875
N8EA	141	54	22,842 160m
K5IID	1400	314	1,318,800
W8AV	4924	564	8,331,408 M/2
WP2Z	6557	344	6,766,824 M/2
WQ8RP	1972	417	2,466,972 M/2

W8AV: K4LT, AF8A, K8AJS, K8KM, K8MN, K8MR, K8ND, KI8IZ, KU8E, W8AV, W8RZ, W8WTS
WP2Z: K8CC, K9TM, K6LA
WQ8RP: AC8W, K8DD, K8MMW, WD8S, WX3M @ K8CC

CQ 160 SSB			
ND8DX	702	63	98,469
K8ND	501	60	65,820
W8MJ	450	55	54,560
N8EA	213	51	25,143
KU8E	211	44	20,636 LP

CQ 160 CW			
K8ND	757	86	170,022
N8EA	523	83	124,413
K8MR	440	62	64,542
KU8E	331	61	50,935
K8CC	329	55	41,690
W8RU	225	53	27,348

(Continued from page 4)

jobs were to make things as difficult (shouting, trying to tear down the antenna, etc..) as possible for the other team to make QSOs. The captain ran the pileup which was the other attendees shouting call signs. Interesting! I eeked out a win 26 - 25 over the team captained by OZ1AA!

After this fast and furious activity it was time for the main program.

- K2WR on The Battle of the Channel Islands
- LA9HW on VP5L in 2000 CQ WW Phone
- SM3SGP on the growing SK3W station
- RA3AUU on the Russian DX Contest
- K3NA on Secrets of Success - WRTC 2000
- N5TJ (via telephone!) on Breaking the CQWW records from EA8BH
- OH2MM on Staying Awake for 48 Hours - A Medical Opinion
- K6AW on N6RO, KC1XX, and HC8N
- Trophy presentations by Contest Club Finland
- Closing remarks by OH6EI

After a few beers at the hotel bar it was time for dinner. I tried caviar for the first time! The main course was a very tasty prime rib. After dinner there was a presentation of souvenir trophies for the speakers....they had one left over so they gave it to me for winning the "contest!" That was pretty cool! Then it was party time.....a few more beers, some

more contest talk, and an all around good time. I left about 1AM as I had an early flight the next morning and wanted to get a few hours of sleep.

Sunday morning I caught a taxi to the airport for the first leg of what was to be 19 hours of airports and flying that day. First was SAS to Stockholm and then Air France (and more superb cuisine!) to Paris and on to Cincinnati. Once again I lucked out and had seats A and B to myself. I arrived back home at 8:30PM Sunday, the 21st.

I've been to a fair number of DX/Contest gatherings but all in the US. It was interesting to be the "DX" for a change. The CCF guys do a great job putting this together....with much the same enthusiasm that they put into building the impressive stations that you hear on the air. It was nice to put some more faces to the call signs that go into our logs time after time. I especially enjoyed meeting some of the younger testers. Such ops as SM0WKA, OZ1AA, OH2JTE, OH5JOC have much enthusiasm for contesting and bright futures ahead of them. I've volunteered to be on the program next year so it looks like I'll be going back. I'm looking forward to it!!

Check out the Contest Club Finland web site at <http://ccf.contesting.com>.



This is how Jeff (K8ND) keeps the rate up.

Mad River Radio Club

Tim Mitchell K9TM
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://WWW.QLS.NET/MRRC](http://www.qls.net/mrrc)



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The Mad River Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated club of amateur radio enthusiasts. The club is centered near Findlay, Ohio and serves Ohio and the surrounding States. Membership is open to anyone.



The Flash is the official newsletter of MRRC and is published six times per year. Submission of material for publication is welcome. It may be sent to the editor at the postal or email address shown in this section. The Flash may be reprinted in whole or in part provided proper credit is given.

Club dues are \$12 per year, payable after the 1st of May each year with a grace period thru 31st of July each year. Members of the same family living at the same address may elect to receive a single Flash for one set of dues. Fulltime students are eligible for dues at half price. Dues are to be paid to the treasurer at the address shown below. Please make checks payable to *Mad River Radio Club*.

The club roster appears annually in the Oct/Nov issue of the Flash.

The Mad River Net is held on Monday nights at 8:30 PM

Eastern time on 3825 KHz.

Keep up with MRRC happenings by subscribing to the MRRC Internet Reflector. To join send an email to mrrc-request@contesting.com. The body of the message should include "subscribe mrrc your-call".

K8MAD is the club call-sign of the Mad River Radio Club