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Upcoming Events

18-20 May

*Dayton Hamvention
Meeting on Saturday,
Suite in the Sun
Contest Super Suite*

23-24 June

Field Day

28 July

Goosefest

From the Big Fish

Dave Pruett, K8CC k8cc@mediaone.net

One of the biggest challenges faced by just about any club is getting people to participate in the running of the organization. It seems like often the old “80-20” rule applies – 80% of the work gets done by 20% of the people. I think MRRC is better than most; with a lot of our current activities like “Suite In The Sun”, MiQP/OhQP, sponsoring meetings, etc., much of the club work is being spread around.

However, I sometimes worry that there are “two” MRRCs. One MRRC (the “visible” one) is represented by those on the MRRC Monday Night Net, and those who are active on the MRRC Reflector. The other, “hidden” MRRC is represented by everyone else – the members who pay their dues and make their meetings, then watch what happens. To illustrate this, consider that as this is written,

we have 74 people on the roster. We typically have between four and twelve people show up for the Monday Night Net – the rest are the “hidden” members. The MRRC Reflector has only 44 members subscribed to it – the other 30 are “hidden”.

I make this point not to bust any chops nor embarrass anyone, but rather to ask these questions of MRRC’s “hidden” members: Are you happy with the club as it is? Are you glad to be part of this club? Does your association with the club increase your enjoyment of amateur radio? Hopefully the answers to all of the above questions are positive. However, I’d like to ask one more: What would you like to see MRRC do that its not doing now?

Between my contacts in contesting and the newsletters we exchange with other organizations, I get to see how



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

many other contest clubs conduct their activities. Many of these clubs have enjoyed tremendous membership growth over the past few years. Here are some of the programs that I see that MRRC doesn’t do now:

- Apparel Program – Jackets, T-shirts, sweaters and such build camaraderie and a strong club identity.

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Editor’s Notes

Tim Mitchell, K9TM k9tm@buckeye-express.com

If you feel like you just received a Flash and are wondering why another one so soon? Well, it is due to several things. I was tardy with the last Flash but needed to put it out before MQP.

This one contains mainly

Dayton info and is also a little late. We should be able to get back on the normal schedule with the next issue.

Thanks to everyone who commented on the new look Flash. I appreciate it and will continue to try and not only

make it look good but contain useful information.

You may notice even more changes this time. Due to my post-office telling me that staples are not acceptable and several members commenting

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From the Big Fish (continued)

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- Internal club achievement awards for contesting performance.
- "Local" organization to help members erect antennas and encourage participation.
- Contest training.

"I'd like to ask all MRRRC members to be thinking about projects or programs that you'd like to see the club initiate."

(From the Big Fish)

I'd like to ask all MRRRC members to be thinking about projects or programs that you'd like to see the club initiate. Even better, think about whether YOU could be part of the team that gets it started. I'd like to be able to bring some ideas to the club at the Dayton meeting so we can vote on these and get started. Feel free to contact me prior to Dayton with your ideas, or catch me during Friday and we can talk about it over a cold beverage.

2001 MiQP

The 2001 MiQP is now history. The contest was

quite memorable with decent conditions and records set in many categories. We also got ALL 83 COUNTIES ON THE AIR from our mobiles. The activity levels were much higher than previous years, due in part to the effort put into increased PR, but also due to the great turnout of MRRRC members who got on and made QSOs. The MI contingent thanks everyone for their activity, particularly the out-state members and those who drove in for the event. It was a great weekend – now let's do it again from OH in August!

Election of Officers

Dayton Hamvention

weekend brings the annual MRRRC Railroad where the membership cajoles, tricks, bribes or bushwhacks unwitting members into being club leaders for the following year. Its that time again! I believe that the current officers are willing to serve another term. However, anyone who wants to run for office (or who wants to nominate someone) should contact me prior to the Dayton Hamvention.

Dayton is only two weeks away – I hope to see everyone at the official MRRRC meeting and the Suite In The Sun. Now where did I put my checkbook?

73, Dave/K8CC

MRRC Profiles: N8MG

By Goose Steingrass, W8AV w8av@aol.com



Goose at the controls of W8AV

This edition of the FLASH profiles one of our newest members Marty Mendelson, N8MG. Marty's interest in ham radio was ignited by visits to his great uncle's house in Chicago. His great uncle was licensed in the late 1930's and Marty notes that the visits would occasionally include a trip to the ham-shack.

"It (the radio equipment) was pretty much all homebrew stuff and glowed very nicely when he turned it all on and started to transmit."



Marty workin' 'em @ K8CC

Unfortunately, Marty admits that he had other things to occupy his time and never took the necessary steps toward obtaining a license until the summer of 1993. He began studying in that year and was licensed as a Novice with call of KB8RSH in February 1994. Marty claims that no one really stood out as an "Elmer" to assist him in getting his first license although he credits Walt, WB8E and Mike, WX3L for encouraging him to upgrade. The encouragement worked pretty well because Marty upgraded to Technician nine months after receiving his initial license, and earned his Extra Class license five months later. He sported the call KG8QT between April, 1995 and December, 1996 when he applied for and received his current call, N8MG.

Marty lists as his hobbies, outside of Ham Radio,

his wife Paulette (I thought that was a full time occupation instead of a hobby.....Ed.) and his three children Harold, KB8UCH; Dale KC8EMO; and Alicia. It is rumored that he will also be entering the world of being a grandfather this fall which will yet become another facet of the aforementioned hobby.

"MG" also claims to enjoy a good game of chess although he admits he is still a bit of a patzer at the game.

Between 1994 and 1998 Marty ham radio career centered around traffic handling. He has been NCS for the both the Southeast Michigan VHF Traffic Net and the Michigan Traffic Net and an occasional check-in to the QMN CW Traffic Net. Lately he enjoys Dxing, RTTY, and of course phone and CW contesting. Marty admits, "I hated CW when I was in Boy Scouts and learned Sema-

phore instead of Morse Code. I enjoy CW now but prefer phone and RTTY." He has obtained his WAS and has also done a bit of county hunting. He also mentions that he currently enrolled in the ARRL Emergency Communication online class.

Marty's favorite contests are SS (both modes), Field Day, and ARRL RTTY Roundup. He admits that he still doesn't feel comfortable as a run station in SS so does a lot of S&P in these contests. Marty recalls that he first met Don, WX3M at Field Day in 1994 with the USECA club which was the year that USECA won their category in

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the contest. He remains proud of that accomplishment to this day.

When asked about how he learned and became interested in MRRC, Marty explains, "Mike, WD8S mentioned several times about going out to K8CC's station to operate. This past spring, Mike, over breakfast one morning, mentioned CQ WPX and asked me to join him. I contacted Dave to be sure that it was all right and the rest is history." He likes the professionalism of contesting at Dave's and the general professionalism he sees in Mad River. He is hoping that he can add a new perspective to MRRC as he gains more exposure to the club and its workings.

The N8MG station consists of an FT1000MP with a Heil Proset, a Kenwood TS-50 as a backup and mobile transceiver, and a Yaesu FT5100 dual band FM transceiver. A Cushcraft R7000,

Outpost and Outbacker antennas, a long wire for 80 meters, and a Comet G9 VHF/UHF antenna make up the antenna farm. Marty just purchased the Outpost antenna and states that it compares very favorably to the R7000 and in some cases is a bit better. He wishes that he could accommodate some larger antennas but is restricted by the size of his city lot.

Marty is presently studying Electrical Engineering at the college level, since he is presently on layoff from General Motors. However at GM, Marty has worn a number of occupational hats from an assembler at the Pontiac Truck Plant, to truck driver, dock chief, inspector, and toolmaker apprentice. Although he is not exactly in a deep love affair with Calculus, Marty plans to have the EE degree completed by the time he is eligible for retirement from GM. He resides at 26242 Woodingham in Warren, Michigan.

Treasurer Report

By Buck Switzer, N8CQA

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04/01/01 Bal. \$104.73
 Dep. 48,00
 04/30/01 Bal. \$152.73

ALL the plaques for OH/MI 2000 have been paid for and shipped. WD8S advises the plaques will be \$60.00 each for 2001!

73, Buck/N8CQA

MRRC Dayton Events

Hospitality Super Suite

MRRC is again joining our friends from the North Coast Contesters to host the contest super suite in the Miami Room (2nd floor) of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. After spending your day at the suite in the sun, come to the night time suite on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 7 PM until 2 AM.

MRRC Meeting

The meeting is on Saturday at noon in the main arena behind the Cushcraft display.

Suite In the Sun

The club is once again hosting the "Suite in the Sun" at the Dayton Hamvention. We are again in spaces 3858 to 3860. We will be open Friday and Saturday only.

W8DRZ & I are again hauling the stuff and setting up. We need two things:

1. Volunteers to spend a few hours running the suite
2. Stuff to sell.

Please let me know when you might be able to spend some time. DRZ and I are willing to spend significant time, but we do have other things to see and do. I have spent a good deal of time at the suite the past two years, but with my supply of old TV transmitter junk about cleared out, I am ready for a more modest schedule.

There are few things as sad as an empty table in the flea market at the beginning of the Hamvention, and few things as happy as an empty table at the end. Selling stuff is what the flea market is all about, especially in the early hours when people still have money and energy. And I have found it a bit amazing what we have sold in previous years. Things like Commodore 64's and broken radios. And lots of better stuff as well.

Bring your stuff to the Suite as early as you can. Make sure we know who it belongs to, your asking price, and what condition it is in. If you have some absolute minimum price, let us know as well.

Should anyone wish to bring stuff for the club to sell as a donation to the club treasury, we will gratefully accept that as well!

So clean up your shack, be prepared to rejuvenate your radio budget, and come spend some time hosting the Suite in the Sun.

And cross your fingers for good weather!

Editor's Notes (continued)

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on their issue arriving torn up, I have decided to tri-fold it and put it in an envelope. This should make everyone happy and doesn't increase the cost of production.

Watch for the next issue to contain MQP stories and claim scores. If anyone wants to put together an article on their operation, please do so and send it to me. You don't have to worry about any of the formatting. If you have pictures, send those to me as well. Send the hi-resolution pictures and I will do any conversions required. If you send me compressed pictures to make them smaller, they will likely not look as good.

I hope that everyone has a safe trip to Dayton and may you find what you are looking for. I have to miss Dayton for the first time in a long time this year. I will be recovering from surgery earlier in the week. However, that won't stop me from taking advantage of Dayton specials... where's my MasterCard?

73, Tim/K9TM

Mad River Radio Club

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



Club Resources

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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