



From the Big Fish

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Upcoming Events

9 Sep

Findlay Hamfest

MRRC Meeting

30 Sep

South-East Ohio Meeting

MRRC Meeting

There may be many of you who don't know the history of how MRRC was formed. While many of us know about the 'asterisk year', we are mostly unaware of the details of how (and perhaps more importantly, why) our club got started. Thanks to the records of original 'Big Fish' Dick, K8MZ (originally K8EHU) we have a many of the early *FLASHS*. Trying to put together a timeline is difficult because most of the early newsletters aren't dated. However, the by 'reading between the lines' we can piece the story together.

During the weekend of the 1971 Dayton Hamvention, a meeting was held to discuss the formation of a midwest contest club. In those days, a contest club was a rare thing and the ARRL Affiliated Club Competitions were dominated by the most part by the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), Murphy's Marauders and the Frankford Radio Club. There were no Local/Medium/Unlimited categories then; just one big competition such that the bigger clubs ruled. The objective behind this meeting in April 1971 was to invite contesters from Ohio and the surrounding states for the purpose of creating a midwest club to challenge these big, established, eastern clubs.

The meeting generated a lot of interest. The initial roster shows 36 members, including some operators still active today such as N4AR, W8KIC, W8OSE, N8AA, K8NZ, W8WA, NA8V, N9RV, N8NA, K8MR and K8RR. As the first MRRC 'Big Fish, K8EHU filed papers to affiliate with the ARRL. An MRRC 'on-air get-together' was started on the last Tuesday of the month on 3907 KHz. As the months until SS counted down, a recruiting drive to increase the membership was undertaken and a goal was set to win the 1971 SS Affiliated Club Competition. By SS time the roster

contained over 130 members.

When the dust settled from the two weekend of the 1971 SS, MRRC claimed a score of just under 10 million points from 174 entries. PVRC was second with 8.7M from 133 entries and Murphy's was third with 7.4M from 116 entries. Murphy's filed a protest almost immediately and after five months of political wrangling, MRRC's 1971 SS Affiliated Club entry was disqualified. The stated grounds for the disqualification was the fact that the only 'in person' meeting the club had held was the first meeting at Dayton 1971; all the subsequent meetings had been on 3907 KHz.

MRRC's 'asterisk year' brought changes to the ARRL Affiliated Club Program. Although the '175 mile radius' and 'attend two meetings per year' rules were already in place, the fallout from 1971 included clarification of what constituted a meeting, and later the separate Local, Medium and Unlimited categories. The effect of the disqualification on MRRC itself was even more profound. Within a year or two, club activity dwindled to almost nothing until revived again in 1976.

Fast forward to 2001.

MRRC is now thirty years old. We are not a new organization, but rather an established, well-known contest club. We are active - we sponsor and run two major QSO parties, and we organize teams for the NAQPs and Sprints. MRRC members regularly top the various categories in SS, however we've only won an SS gavel twice and not since 1995. We lost this past year by only 60K. We also lost the ARRL 160M Affiliated Club Competition by 70K.

MRRC was formed originally to compete in Affiliated Club Competitions. Sparked by a comment from Mike, K9NW I want to pro-



The 'Big Fish' hard at work at Windwood, VI.

pose **that MRRC set out to win the Medium Category in the four ARRL Affiliated Club Competitions held in conjunction with HF contests.** Consider these facts concerning the contests in question:

Sweepstakes: We only lost by 60K in 2000, and for 2001 we've been joined by some of our colleagues from the North Coast Contesters who are capable of adding ten to fifteen times that amount to the MRRC total. Indeed, with 60-70 people on the club roster, the challenge will be to focus on maximizing the number of points per entry by organizing multi-ops and minimizing part time efforts. MRRC can win this!

ARRL 160: MRRC has always had low-band specialists who have provided most of our score in this one. However, because this is a single-contest competition (as opposed to SS where there are separate CW and SSB contests combined), we can try to overwhelm the competition with activity. Last year, we only had thirteen entries, but the winner (FRC) only had 16! With 60-70 people on the club roster, MRRC can win this!

ARRL 10: This contest does not really favor MRRC propagation-

(Continued on page 2)

Mad River Radio Club

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
HTTP://WWW.QSL.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 callsign of the Mad River Radio Club.

wise, but with a good station and a maximum effort, a lot of points can be made. In 2000, MRRC was sixth with 6.7M points from only sixteen entries – 2M of these points came from K9NW's single-op effort alone. The winner (FCG) had 18.8M from 31 entries. Again, because this is a single-contest competition, MRRC can overwhelm the competition with activity. If we focus on multi-ops and mixed-mode entries (where the totals are typically double or triple the single-mode entries) 20M would not be hard to beat. If MRRC wants this, we can win it!

ARRL DX: This is a very challenging competition, where station size and a willingness to spend 48 hours in the chair by a lot of people is needed to top the listing. MRRC lacks the number of big stations needed to compete – we do OK on CW where the big multis from K8CC

and W8AV lead the way, however neither of these stations have been active on SSB. We need our big stations to be QRV on both modes, and also have to show our "middle guns" (defined as a big tri-bander/KW) how much fun it can be to do 24-30 hours and a couple of million points. Winning this one by MRRC will be very challenging.

This plan to put effort into the four ARRL Affiliated Club Competitions was proposed to the membership at the Goosalooza II MRRC meeting back in July with a favorable response. This will be proposed again at the Findlay meeting this coming weekend. Come to the meeting with your ideas how we can make these victories happen.

Keep in mind that your contribution to the MRRC total requires that you have attended two meetings in the past twelve

months. If you're short, make it a point to be at Findlay!

73, Dave/K8CC

Treasurer's Report Buck Switzer, N8CQA n8cqa@att.net

Treasurer's Report 08/01:

Balance 08/01/01	\$418.49
Deposits	\$78.00
Expenses	\$52.00
Balance 08/31/01	\$444.49