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Upcoming Events

- 13-Apr**
K8CC Cabin Fever Meeting
- 20-Apr**
Michigan QSO Party
- 17,18,19-May**
Dayton Hamvention
- 18,19-May**
Suite-in-the-Sun
- 18-May**
Dayton Meeting

From the Big Fish

Dave Pruett, K8CC k8cc@comcast.net

There was a recent decision by the ARRL that will have a profound impact on MRRC. I am referring to the recent change to the Affiliated Club Competition rules where instead of a "two meetings per year" attendance requirement, the new requirement is that a club member "in good standing" to submit scores for their club.

The "two meeting" rule has been a part of MRRC ever since its inception. Interpretation of what constitutes a "meeting" and "attendance" was at the root of our infamous "asterisk year" in 1971. Each year as MRRC would plan its meeting calendar, "two meetings" or more succinctly, how to make it convenient for members to make two meetings was always a major consideration. Now its no longer an issue.

However, now with this newly found liberation comes the responsibility of establishing what constitutes a "member in good standing" in the Mad River Radio Club. For so long, the ARRL de-

finied it for us and we simply obeyed. Now we can define it for ourselves, but our decision will likely have a major impact on our club, which could be good or bad.

The sense I get from the club membership is to relax our requirements to make meeting attendance a non-issue. Perhaps a "member in good standing" is simply one whose dues are current – this is simply an extension of our current practice with regards to the newsletter. Dues current equals MRRC member - now we call it "in good standing".

I'm not sure that this new approach to membership will have much of an effect on our meeting schedule. Most MRRC meetings now have their own attractions that I believe will keep people coming back. However, I don't think meeting attendance will grow, at least not initially. If we attract new members to the club as the result of these new rules, I only hope we can infect them with enough enthusiasm to cause them to



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

make the drive to our meetings, because they will have no incentive to do so otherwise.

One of the items for our Dayton meeting will be to define our new membership requirements. I'd like to ask that if you have an opinion on the subject, please drop me an e-mail so that your thoughts can be incorporated in the proposal(s) which will be brought to the membership for approval. Please note the change in my e-mail address (see masthead).

73, Dave/K8CC

Treasurer Report

By Buck Switzer, N8CQA n8cqa@att.net

Bal. @ 02/01/02	\$1118.60
Deposits	0.00
Expenses	0.00
Bal. @ 02/28/02	\$1118.60

73, Buck/N8CQA

K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MQP Meeting



The third annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MQP MRRRC meeting is on Saturday 13-April 2002 @ 12 noon.

Normal MRRRC 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)

MiQP Operating Tips

By Dave Pruett, K8CC k8cc@comcast.net

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) has developed into a very successful operating event. While many MRRCCers turn in great scores, as the logchecker each year I see ways that some entrants could improve their scores. The goal of this article is to share this advice, and also some observations from operating the last three MiQPs.

Band Activity – Traditionally, most out-state MiQP activity comes from east of the Mississippi, in addition to in-state activity. In this regard, band selection is somewhat like Sweepstakes, but with even more emphasis on 40M and less activity on the high bands. During the day, 40M will have the most activity, particularly for in-state QSOs. 20M can also provide good rates if the activity is there and is very useful for working western multipliers. On 15M and 10M the usual skip zone is not working in your favor so you're likely to be working mostly casual participants. There are published activity times for 15M and 10M so try these bands at those times. You also might find the more serious out-state stations will ask you to move there.

CW vs. SSB – The balance between CW and SSB QSOs is perhaps the most important factor in a good MiQP score. The scoring rules favor CW with a 2:1 ratio in points per QSO. The mobile stations also seem to favor CW because rates tend to be better with our puny mobile antennas. At the same time, some stations work almost 100% SSB – last year K8AO had only one CW QSO out of almost 300 (and that was when KU8E asked him to move for the Delta county mult!)

Because multipliers are counted on both CW and SSB, some operating on your less-than-favorite mode is going to be necessary to avoid hurting your score. More QSOs on a given mode generally means more multipliers. A 50/50 CW/SSB split is a good objective, but a more uneven split may not hurt particularly if you're a full time entry and will likely make 400-500 QSOs. If you're only operating part time, then balancing mode-QSOs to maximize multipliers and hence, your score is crucial.

Follow the Mobiles – MiQP always has a number of mobile stations running around the state during the contest. You can work these mobiles over again from each county they operate from. While providing additional QSOs, these mobiles often are the only stations on from a number of the sparsely populated counties.

The trick to maximizing the number of mobiles you work is to have some way to monitor the typical frequencies they use throughout the contest while still being able to call CQ. The greatest amount of mobile activity is on 40M, so on CW the mobiles try to hang out around 7045 while on SSB the preferred spot is 7225, although this is becoming more and more difficult due to increasing amounts of fixed station activity near that frequency.

There are a number of ways to monitor the mobile frequencies – using the sub-receiver or VFO-B in your modern transceiver, or perhaps use a spare receiver/transceiver with a random piece of wire for the antenna. Be sure to check for too much power pickup from your transmitter, but even with a KW the receiver should survive as if you can get enough physical separation between the antennas.

One more tip – in years past the routes and schedules for many of the MiQP mobiles are posted on the MRRRC reflector. While circumstances may effect these schedules, quite often the times in and out of each county are pretty accurate. If you know when to look for mobiles in a particular

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2001 MQP, The Out of State Perspective

By Jeff Clarke, KU8E

Ever since MRRC started administering the Michigan QSO Party, along with the Ohio QSO Party, I have been one of the guys that joined the latest trend of going out mobile and activating a bunch of counties. Those of us that have done the “mobile thing” the last few years in the MQP/OQP have discovered it was a real rush to have a mini pileup every time we drove into a new county . It sure beats the low rates of your typical state QSO party. We all seem to come back for more every year when it’s MQP/OQP time despite dealing with a long driving trip, up to 700 miles during a 12 hour period, and dealing with car sickness at times. (Ask **K8AQM** about that)

For the 2001 MQP it was my intention to go mobile again. My 2000 MQP mobile partner, **K9TM** , was unavailable this year so I tried to get either **N8VW** or **K8ND**, who have done the **OQP** in the past with me to join up. Both of those guys had commitments and then **WX3M** stepped forward to do the counties I was going to do so I decided to just operate from home this time. Keith, **WA3HAE** had won the past two MQP contests with John, **N6MU** not far behind. The thought of giving these guys a run for the out of state plaque seemed interesting. Plus I would have a decided advantage being right next store in Ohio , so my signal would be booming into Michigan on both 40 and 80 meters.

In the week or so leading up to MQP I thought about what strategy I was going to use and if I was going to put some additional antennas in the air. I even thought about maybe doing a two radio setup. In the end I figured running a kilowatt into my present center fed Zepp dipole at 35 foot would work just fine. Even though Michigan is off the end of the antenna I always seem to be pretty loud up there in SS and other stateside contests. In SS the saying is always “There is no meters like 40 meters.”, You could probably say the same for MQP, so my strategy was to have one VFO on my radio on 40 SSB and the other on 40 CW. If the rate slowed down I would check 20 meters. I also planned to do as much passing as possible, whether it be a rover station or one of the guys running a KW, who I knew I could work on scatter on one of the higher bands.

The Saturday of MQP finally arrived . I ran into fellow MRRC members John, **K8JM** and Dennis, **KT8X**, operating as **N8BU**, on 40 SSB right before the start. We had a short QSO , wished each other good luck , and at 16:00 Z I was off and running. **N8KSO** , in *Houghton* county was first in the log . I did a quick scan of 40 SSB , worked a few guys and then headed down to CW to look for the rovers. **K8CC/M** in *Marquette* county was the first of the MRRC rovers in the log at 16:02 Z followed by **W8UE/M** , **K8XXX/M** (with their distinctive chirpy signal), **K8MR/M**, **W1NN/M**, and **AF8A/M** during the next 15 minutes or so. I didn’t work **W8RU/M** until 16:47 Z. Maybe they got a late start. It sounded like all the rovers guys had successfully got going . I ended the first hour with a 35 hour .

Chart #1 - KU8E QSO Rate – MQP 2001

Hour	QSOs
16	35
17	38
18	28
19	37
20	31
21	27
22	25
23	20
00	25
01	21
02	26
03	29
Total Avg Rate	28.5

Chart #2 - Mobile QSO’s made by KU8E

Call	QSO’s
K8MR/M	33
AF8A/M	31
W8UE/M	26
K8CC/M	25
K8XXX/M	23
W8RU/M	23
W1NN/M	20
N8FGK/M	5
NW8W/M	3
WF5X/M	2
KC8LTL/M	1
TOTAL	192

For the rest of the contest I got into a rhythm of switching between 40 CW and SSB, mostly working the rovers that were on. We got moving some of the rover stations like **AF8A** , **W8RU**, **K8MR** , and **W8UE** down to a science by just automatically QSYing to a specific clear frequency I found around 7155 or 7160 each time we worked on CW. I think many of our CW QSO’s ended with QSY ? , Although I didn’t bother if they had a pileup and I would find them about 5 minutes later after the pileup died down and QSY’ed then. **K8CC** and **W1NN** were also very good about QSY requests but for some reason the **K8XXX** guys would just ignore my requests, which were always during a time when they had no pileup on them. I’m sure I missed many multipliers in some of the counties they hit where no one else was on.

Too bad.... (See Chart #2)

Occasionally , I would do a “CQ Michigan” on 40 SSB, which ended up working pretty good a times with a decent amount of stations responding. I didn’t spend lots of time doing this because I didn’t want to miss any of the rovers. But it did work well

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in short spurts, especially after the first few hours after all the serious fixed stations were in the log. I also successfully passed some of the stations I knew who were running a KW to some of the other bands. I passed **K8JM** to all the bands (only station I worked on all bands/modes) and I got **N8BU** on several of the higher bands. I even talked **K8GL** into a 40 meter SSB QSO !!! (Thanks Greg! I think he mentioned I was his only SSB QSO in an email) When 0400Z rolled around there were 342 QSO's in the log. I had worked 76 counties on CW and 59 on SSB out of the possible 83 on each mode. (See Chart #1 for what I missed.) I was also amazed that I averaged almost 30 QSO's per (28.5) for the 12 hour contest period, which I thought was impressive ,being out of state. With a score of 72,090 points I also smashed WA3HAE's old out of state record. To say I was pleased would be an understatement !

Thanks go out to **K8CC** for organizing all the activity and all the rover stations Over 56 % of my QSO's in MQP were with rover stations. This activity is what makes the MQP the successful event it has become. Hope to see everyone again next year....

Chart #3

MICHIGAN QSO PARTY MULTIPLIERS - KU8E

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=====
ALCO: cp  CALH: c.  GENE: cp  ISAB: c.  MACO: cp  MUSK: cp  SAGI: cp
ALGE: cp  CASS: c.  GLAD: cp  JACK: cp  MACK: c.  NEWA: c.  SANI: cp
ALLE: c.  CHAR: cp  GOGE: ..  KALK: cp  MANI: ..  OAKL: cp  SCHO: cp
ALPE: cp  CHEB: cp  GRAT: cp  KENT: cp  MARQ: cp  OCEA: ..  SHIA: cp
ANTR: cp  CHIP: c.  GRTR: cp  KEWE: cp  MASO: ..  OGEM: cp  STCL: cp
AREN: c.  CLAR: c.  HILL: cp  KZOO: cp  MCLM: ..  ONTO: cp  STJO: cp
BARA: ..  CLIN: c.  HOUG: cp  LAKE: c.  MECO: c.  OSCE: cp  TUSC: cp
BARR: cp  CRAW: cp  HURO: cp  LAPE: cp  MENO: cp  OSCO: cp  VANB: c.
BAY: c.  DELT: cp  IONI: cp  LEEL: cp  MIDL: cp  OTSE: cp  WASH: cp
BENZ: cp  DICK: cp  IOSC: cp  LENA: cp  MISS: cp  OTTA: cp  WAYN: cp
BERR: cp  EATO: cp  INGH: cp  LIVI: cp  MONR: cp  PRES: cp  WEXF: ..
BRAN: cp  EMME: cp  IRON: c.  LUCE: c.  MTMO: cp  ROSC: c.
=====

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c = CW, p = Phone

2001 MiQP Awards

By Dave Pruett, K8CC k8cc@comcast.net

The following individuals and organizations will receive a 2001 Michigan QSO Party plaque for winning their respective categories. The remaining top five entries in each category will receive a MiQP Certificate of Accomplishment. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Awards should be in the hands of the winners by the beginning of April 2002.

High Score - Michigan Single Op - High Power
Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
Winner: Dennis Ward, KT8X operator of station N8BU

High Score - Michigan Club
Sponsor: Mad River Radio Club
Winner: Marinette & Menominee Amateur Radio Club

High Score - Michigan Single Op - Low Power
Sponsor: Eastern Michigan Amateur Radio Club
Winner: James Callow, K8IR

High Score - Out of State Single Operator
Sponsor: Washtenaw Amateur Radio Transmitting Society
Winner: Jeff Clarke, KU8E

High Score - Michigan Single Op - QRP
Sponsor: Michigan QRP Club
Winner: Buck Switzer, N8CQA

Most Counties Worked Out of State
Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club
Winner: Jeff Clarke, KU8E

High Score - Michigan Multi Op
Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club
Winner: Station W8PIF - Ops AA9PB, KØSN, KB9WBP, W9YQ

The MiQP committee expresses our thanks to the Michigan clubs and individuals who have supported the MiQP awards program.

For complete results, see the MRRC web site.

High Score - Michigan Mobile
Sponsor: Flying Beers International Amateur Radio Club
Winner: Station K8XXX/m - Ops K8AA, K8AQM, K8JWV, NU8Z

Scores

By Jim Stahl, K8MR jimk8mr@aol.com

JANUARY NAQP CW				FEBRUARY CW SPRINT			
W8MJ	951	240	228,240	AD8J	236	45	10,620
N8EA	808	247	199,576	KW8W	190	43	8,170
K8MK	746	267	199,182	K8MR	174	39	6,786
K8ND	780	249	194,220	WX3M	132	35	4,716
K9TM	800	220	176,000	AF8A	107	35	3,745
W8CAR	679	232	157,528	FEBRUARY CW SPRINT			
K8MR	666	226	150,516	K9NW	351	50	15,550
K5IID	595	222	132,090	KW8N	306	49	
K8JM	610	198	120,780	K8MR	307	48	14,736
AF8A	567	179	101,493	K8MK (KU8E)	297	46	13,662
K9NW	445	134	59,228	N8EA	302	43	13,288
W8RU	228	125	28,500	K8ND	255	49	12,494
K8AAX	233	101	23,533	K9TM (LP)	253	46	11,638
K8NZ	109	73	7,957	WX3M	199	39	7,761
JANUARY NAQP SSB				ARRL DX CW			
K8ND	995	250	248,750	K8GL	2914	418	3,654,000
W8MJ	982	236	231,752	K8DX	2587	323	2,505,834
ND8DX	843	239	201,474	K5IID	1284	319	1,228,788
NU8Z	943	193	181,999	KU8E	1122	311	1,046,826
WZ8P	714	161	114,954	K8GT	905	273	741,195
K8MR	539	178	95,942	K9NW	1857	110	612,810 10M
KW8W	280	119	33,320	N8KR	566	244	414,312
W8DRZ	289	111	32,079	W8FT (AA8UP)	1153	99	340,659 15M
WI8W	249	109	27,141	K8AAX	525	161	253,575
K8DX	240	106	25,440	NX8C	185	140	77,700
K8AAX	213	78	16,614	K8ND	31	23	160M
K9NW	195	71	13,845	K8AZ	4360	528	6,900,000 M/S
W8RU	57	47	2,280	+ K8MR, K8NZ, W8CAR, W8KIC, W8BIN			
ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES				CQ 160 SSB			
KU8E	106	39	4,914	ND8DX	904	84	180,180
W8RU	41	18	900	W8DRZ	68	30	4,080
N8ET	31	11	341	KW8W	70	22	3,278
K8CC	526	115	73,945	N8TR	1068	90	234,000 Multi
CQ 160 CW				ARRL DX SSB			
K8DX	943	94	245,904	N8TR	2015	471	2,847,195 +pkt
K8CC (W8MJ)	943	79	179,725	N8KM	1465	357	1,569,015
W8CAR	558	65	87,880	W8CAR	1256	269	1,013,592 +pkt
N8TR	342	80	83,360	K5IID	995	298	889,530
ND8DX	238	58	33,040	K9NW @K9UWA	1973	123	728,037 10M
W8RU	196	55	27,115	K8KHZ	495	180	265,680
K8MR	175	47	19,129	W8DRZ	321	132	127,132
K8ND+pkt	535	76	107,236	KW8W	158	106	50,244
FEBRUARY SSB SPRINT				K8AZ	3137	516	4,800,000 M/S
KU8E	315	51	16,065@K8MK	K8CC	3018	476	4,309,704 M/S
K9NW	262	52	13,624@K9UWA	+K8GL, KE8OC			
K9TM	275	48	13,200	K8MK	1450	325	1,500,000 M/S
K8ND	263	50	13,150	+KU8E, N8VW			
ND8DX	254	47	11,938	PJ2T	4385	337	4,433,235 M/S
				W8AV, W0CG, W8TK, et al			

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county, it increases your chances of working easy multipliers.

Multi-Rigs for Multi-Ops – The MiQP rules have only one category for multi-ops, and multiple transmitters are allowed. A huge setup with rigs on each band and mode is not necessary - a simpler setup with even one additional transmitter will pay huge dividends to the score. At many stations, its quite possible to string up a 40M dipole away from the other antennas and run a separate rig on that band, leaving the existing rig to run 80M/20M/15M/10M with the existing station antennas. With a rig dedicated to 40M, following the mobiles is easy while the other radio can be exploring QSO opportunities on the other bands.

Operating Less Than Full Time – Even though the MiQP is only twelve hours long, some members can't (or are not interested in) operate the entire event. While activity seems to be highest after dark, daytime conditions particularly on 40M favor the short skip necessary to reach the major population areas, as well as for making in-state QSOs. If your operating time is limited, spreading it out over the contest period will likely result in a better score. The reason for this is that you will have better exposure to the mobile stations operating from counties that won't be on later.

Club Competition – MiQP has a club competition for Michigan clubs. However, MRRC has chosen to exclude itself from this competition to give the other clubs something to shoot for. Since MRRC scores don't count, you should consider giving your score to another Michigan club you might belong to. In the last two years, the club plaque has been won with only two entries – one serious single op and a big multi op. The winning club score in 2001 was something over 200K points. In the same contest, MRRC entries totaled almost 750K! These points could have been credited to other Michigan clubs and made the club competition much more interesting, with likely a different winner. So consider giving your score to another Michigan club.

So, good luck in MiQP 2002! W8MJ and I will be looking for you from our mobile.

Mad River Radio Club

Tim Mitchell K9TM
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
HTTP://WWW.MRRC.NET



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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.

Editor's Notes

Tim Mitchell, K9TM k9tm@buckeye-express.com

Not much really to say on my part. I just returned home from my second Florida trip of the year. I know I'm getting older now as I enjoy the warmth and outdoor life of Florida (and could care less about the cold and snow of OH/MI). It is such a struggle to leave the boating, fishing, golfing and general warm outdoor life that can be enjoyed in Florida during winter time. Too bad I am a little behind on my goal to retire at 40...

although I still have a few years to go!

Too bad south Florida doesn't have much in the way of engineering jobs. Hanging out with the retired folks, I think I could slide right into that lifestyle with no problem (hi). I have no problem finding things to amuse myself or otherwise keep busy.

As we get closer to Dayton and the yearly MRRC railroad, I want to drop a not so subtle hint.

I was asked by Dave (K8CC) to be the Flash editor (when he became the Fish as he did not want to be Fish and editor) and since he is such a good friend, I accepted. However, if Dave is replaced as Fish this year... I will be stepping aside as Flash editor.

Good luck to all in MQP. I will be on from home trying to find MI folks to work. Sounds like there will be plenty of mobiles to work.

If you're going to Dayton be thinking about helping out with the Suite in the Sun and also making it to the Meeting on Saturday. More on this in the next Flash.

It's almost time for Field-Day again as well. I'm sure discussion of this will pick up after MQP is over.

73, Tim/K9TM