



## From the Big Fish

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## Upcoming Events

**17,18,19-May**

*Dayton Hamvention*

**17-May**

*Suite-in-the-Sun*

*9am-5pm, #3858-3860*

**18-May**

*Suite-in-the-Sun*

*9am-4pm, #3858-3860*

*Dayton Meeting*

*Noon in the main arena  
behind the Cusbcraft booth.*

**Volunteers are needed to  
man the Suite-in-the-Sun,  
please contact Tim  
(K8OC)  
[k8oc@comcast.net](mailto:k8oc@comcast.net)  
for more information.**

May is a special month for amateurs in this area, and specifically the Mad River Radio Club. May is the month of the Dayton Hamvention, arguably the Mecca of amateur radio which draws many of us. I attended my first Hamvention after leaving college in 1980 (finals week in Arkansas precluded earlier trips) and have not missed one since. I attended my first MRRC meeting at Dayton in 1982, and I've not missed one of those since either.

Dayton is important to MRRC because of the fun and camaraderie we share, and also because it's the annual election of officers. For yet another time, the infamous "MRRC railroad" will roll into the station and bring us a new slate of officers for the coming year.

I will not be running again in 2002 for president of this great organization. There is nothing in our club constitution or bylaws to prevent doing so, and I really don't mind the time it takes to do the job. However, it has been my experience that after a period of time, a change at the top is generally good for the club. New officers generally bring a new perspective to the operation of the club. Also, its generally been the practice to alternate the office of the president between Ohio and Michigan – both for the sake of democracy and to reflect differences in viewpoint that result from geography.

While the MRRC railroad is the final stop on the road to the presidency, the process of getting to that point is rather ad-hoc. The outgoing 'Big Fish' approaches possible candidates and consenses on a recommendation through discussions with other MRRC members. However, the process is not intended to be exclusive – if you would like to nominate someone for an office, or would like to be considered yourself, please contact me at my e-mail address shown above.

It's my feeling that there are times in the history of MRRC which turn out to be pivotal to the life of our club. Some of these have been disappointments, but some have been new, wonderful opportunities. I can point to times where one or two people from a particular area have come and joined MRRC and a number of their friends followed. Like rings on a tree, you can trace the history of the club by the 'strata' of members.

I feel that my presidency of MRRC has been framed by two of these events. When elected in May 2000, the possibility of a new relationship with our colleagues in the North Coast Contesters appeared on the horizon. The direction we finally took, where NCC members interested in domestic contesting were encouraged to hold dual membership in both clubs was a compromise that re-



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

flected the sensibilities of both organizations. It also, in my mind, removed any remaining barriers to the relationship between the two clubs from the events of thirteen years ago. Our friendship with NCC is stronger than it has ever been and I thank their leaders such as K8AZ and K8DX for their efforts.

As my presidency winds down, I see another event which may shape the future of MRRC: that is, the relaxing of meeting requirements for members to be eligible to submit scores in the ARRL Affiliated Club competitions. This change will be significant in two ways – on one hand it will be easier for members to maintain their eligibility. This may also allow us to attract new members. On the other hand, there may be less impetus for members to attend in-person meetings. However, managing this balance will be up to my successor and I wish him luck.

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There are four other facets of our club which I feel have grown or improved over the past two years. These are:

- Michigan and Ohio QSO Parties – While the renaissance in these two events began in 1999 when MRRC took them over, the activity levels in these contests has continued to grow rapidly over the past two years. While I would like to think that those of us who run our QSO parties should take some credit, the real kudos go to all of you club members who have contributed your on-the-air activity. Prior to MiQP recently, Non-MRRCer **Hal, W1NN** even went on the Contesting Online web site and praised our contest, calling it “one of the five best in the country”. This is an accomplishment we can all be proud of.
- ARRL Affiliated Club Competition – While this has been MRRC’s “reason for existence” since the very beginning, over the past two years our club has stepped it up a notch. We almost won the 2000 SS gavel and we will be competitive again in 2001. We’ve made our presence known in the other Affiliated Club Competitions such as ARRL 160 and ARRL 10 and we’ve even won some top spots in smaller events like FQP. Again, the credit goes to you, the club members who spend time in the chair banging out the QSOs and scoring the points. I’d also like to recognize the efforts of **Mike, K9NW** who acts as our club ‘score whip’ as we slog through the contest season.
- MRRC On-Line – The MRRC e-mail reflector has lots of activity on a daily basis, and its usage has grown to the point that a large percentage of the club membership participates. MiQP and OhQP have spawned their own reflectors. The MRRC web site, originally started by **Jeff, KU8E** and now maintained by **Pat, N8VW** has grown to be a truly useful tool serving the club. And the ‘On-Line FLASH’, where the club newsletter is made available electronically to members continues to save the club \$\$\$.
- Club Meeting Schedule – While club meetings may no longer be as important due to the ARRL changes, it’s my personal feeling that they are still important for building camaraderie within the club. The K8CC, W8AV and WZ8P meetings have quickly developed their own ‘personality’ and reasons to attend.

One last thing. In this newsletter you’ll find a copy of proposed articles of incorporation for MRRC. Hank, K8DD found a boilerplate on the ARRL web site, and between us we re-worked it into something representing how MRRC functions. Please take a look at this document and be prepared to vote on accepting it at the Dayton meeting.

While the president is one of only two elected MRRC officers, there were several more people behind the scenes making this club a success during these past two years. My thanks to **Buck, N8CQA** for his work as treasurer, to **Tim, K9TM** for bringing new techniques to publishing the newsletter, to **Tim, KE8OC** for helping out with the roster, and to those who hosted MRRC meetings, worked on the ‘Suite In The Sun’, or any of the myriad other club tasks.

I deeply appreciated the opportunity to be your president. MRRC is a truly great contesting club, with a long history to draw upon. I trust that we all will support my successor to build upon this history in the future.

See you all at Dayton.

## THE MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB CONSTITUTION

*Proposal to be voted on at the Dayton Meeting*

### Preamble:

We, the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons commonly interested in the competitive aspects of Amateur Radio, constitute ourselves the **Mad River Radio Club** and enact this constitution as our governing law. It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance that interest in Amateur Radio.

### Article I: Membership

All persons interested in the competitive aspects of Amateur Radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership may be by application to the club secretary and payment of the annual club dues. Full membership includes all club privileges as well as rights to hold a club office and to vote for club officers.

### Article II: Officers

1. The officers of this club shall be President, and Secretary/Treasurer.
2. The officers of this club shall be elected for a term of one year by ballot of the members present, provided there be a quorum, at the annual meeting to be held each year at the Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, OH. At the expiration of their term, all officers shall turn over all items belonging to the club to their successors.
3. Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special elections at the first regular meeting following the withdrawal or resignation.
4. Officers may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership.

### Article III: Duties of Officers

1. The President, or designee, shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents adopted by the club, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President.

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2. The President shall appoint a club member to be responsible for the publication of the club newsletter, to be called "The FLASH". Expenses for the publication of the newsletter, as approved by the President, shall be borne by the club.
3. The President shall appoint a club member to be responsible for the operation of an Internet Web site for the club. Expenses for maintaining this web site, as approved by the President, shall be borne by the club.
4. The Secretary/Treasurer, or designee, shall accept membership applications, and keep a roll of members, which will be provided to the newsletter editor for the purpose of publishing the newsletter. Furthermore he/she shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the club; keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended; and pay no bills without proper authorization by the club president. He/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts for publication in the club newsletter as required.
5. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the constitution and by-laws of the club. He/she shall note all amendments, changes and additions on the constitution and shall permit it to be consulted by members upon request.
6. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to provide a list of members in good standing to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) prior to any ARRL radio contest where there is a club competition for ARRL affiliated radio clubs.

**Article IV: Meetings**

Regular club meetings shall be held at hamfests, Swap & Shops and other occasions during the year as determined by the President with the consensus of the membership. Meetings shall be announced in the club newsletter, the club e-mail reflector and on the club Internet Web site not less than 24 hours before the meeting.

**Article V: Dues**

The club, by majority vote of those present at any regular meeting, may levy upon the general membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization. Non-payment of such dues or assessments shall be cause for expulsion from the club within the discretion of the membership.

**Article VI: Member In Good Standing Status**

To be Member In Good Standing, members must be active in the Mad River Radio Club in one or more of the following:

- Attend scheduled meetings.
- Participate in amateur radio contests and submit scores to be credited to the Mad River Radio Club.
- Participate in and contribute to, when applicable, the Mad River Radio Club e-mail reflector.
- Participate in and contribute to, when applicable, the Mad River Radio Club Monday Night Net.
- Participate in and contribute to, when applicable, the Mad River Radio Club publication "The Flash".

**Article VII: Amendments**

This constitution or By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total membership. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next following regular meeting, provided all members have been noticed by mail of the intent to amend the constitution and/or By-Laws at said meeting.

Robert's Rules shall govern proceedings.

**By-Laws:**

1. Dues. A regular yearly assessment of \$12.00 per member is hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the constitution for the purpose of providing funds for expenses.
2. Regional directors. The President may appoint Regional Directors within the club to encourage and assist other members in entering and submitting scores for the good of the club.

## Mad River Radio Club

Tim Mitchell K9TM  
6016 Granville Drive  
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
HTTP://WWW.MRRC.NET

**2001 SS Medium Club  
Category Winners!**



## Club Resources

### President

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### Editor

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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](mailto: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](mailto:k9tm@buckeye-express.com)

Hot off of the web, after this Flash edition was complete, came news that we won the SS Medium Club Category Gavel for 2001! Congratulations to all who participated.

«FirstName», I would like to encourage you to contact Tim (KE8OC) and sign up for a time slot to support the Suite-in-the-Sun. Doing so

affords you a chance to give your feet a rest, meet other MRRC members as they hang-out at the suite, meet other contesters who drop in and do some people watching as the masses pass by... not to mention helping to support the club. Tim can be reached at [ke8oc@comcast.net](mailto:ke8oc@comcast.net).

Also, don't forget about the meeting on Saturday. The

usual MRRC Railroad will occur as well as discussion and voting on the proposed constitution. The meeting is at noon in the main arena behind the Cushcraft booth.

Hope to see you all at Dayton.

**73 Tim/K9TM**