

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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The Flash



From the Big Fish

By Mike Tessmer, K9NW k9nw@qth.com

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Upcoming Events

3-5 December
ARRL 160M Contest

11-12 December
ARRL 10M Contest

18-19 December
RAC Winter Contest
Stew Perry TopBand Challenge

8-9 January
K8MR Christmas Party/
MRRC Meeting
K8AZ/NCC Party
ARRL RTTY Roundup
North American QSO Party - CW

15-16 January
North American QSO Party - Phone

22-23 January
ARRL VHF SS

29-30 January
CQ 160M Contest - CW

Happy New Year MRRCers! The new year signals "halftime" of the contest season. It's been a good season so far. Sure, the bands aren't quite as hot as a couple years ago and it takes a little more effort to keep motivated when the QSOs get tougher. But we've hung in there and we're putting points on the board. Sweepstakes was our primary focus in the first half and our effort has netted us what appears to be our highest point total and second highest number of club entries in our history. Very FB! We'll see how things play out in our competition with MWA when the results come out in a few months.

We had members out and about during both modes of CQ WW as well as some fine efforts from the home front. We also had good activity in ARRL 160. I'll grant you it's going to be hard to get fired

up for the 10M contest the next few years. With a good number of our ops well equipped for Top Band, perhaps ARRL 160 is another event in which to make a major push?

There are a lot of opportunities for MRRC activity in the coming weeks with stuff for just about any interest and any mode. ARRL RTTY, NAQPs, ARRL VHF SS, CQ 160 CW, Sprints, ARRL DX CW, a QSO party or two...and these are all within the first seven weeks. All include either club or team competition. Keep on eye on the reflector for NAQP and Sprint team details.

Of course the first official MRRC event of the new year is the traditional K8MR Christmas party. This is always a fun event, actually an all-day affair with guys checking out various electronic and hardware suppliers in the morning, lunch, and then



descending upon the home of K8AZ around 3PM or so, ultimately QSYing to K8MR around 7:30PM. It's highly recommended that you try to attend. We don't have a lot of in-person gatherings so it's a great opportunity to meet your club mates as well as our brethren from the NCC. Since it's also one of the best attended meetings, this a great place to bring up and discuss club matters. All the particulars can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Good luck to everyone in the upcoming contests. Have fun and Go Mad River!! ?



January 8 ,2005

K8MR & K8AZ Christmas Parties

Details Inside!

**K8MR Christmas Party/
MRRC Meeting
K8AZ Open House/
NCC Christmas Party**

Continuing an MRRC holiday tradition, the 29th annual K8MR Christmas Party and MRRC meeting will be held on January 8, 2005 in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland, OH. That same weekend, MRRCers are invited to the K8AZ Open House/NCC Christmas Party.

The K8AZ Open House begins around 3:00 PM with refreshments, snacks and pizza. Around 7:00 PM, the migration begins for the twenty minute drive to K8MR. The festivities at Jim's culminates in a MRRC meeting around 10:00 PM.

Printed below is a map showing both the K8MR and K8AZ QTH's, coming from I-271 which runs north-south along the eastern edge of the suburban Cleveland. Here are the specific addresses and info:

Jim Stahl, K8MR
30499 Jackson Rd
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
216-831-6954

Tom Lee, K8AZ
7275 Surrey Lane
Chesterland OH 44026
440-729-8104

There are other "unofficial" activities that are planned for that same day. Some MRRCers intend to make the rounds of Samsel Marine Hardware in downtown Cleveland around 10:00 AM, then on to Electronics Surplus, with lunch at the Hooters in Mentor, OH. Finally, if schedule allows a visit to Amateur Electronic Supply in Wickcliffe wrapping up by 3:00 PM. Details and times are still being worked out, but if interested, contact K8CC at k8cc@comcast.net or K8MR at JimK8MR@aol.com to coordinate.



Mad River Radio Club
Treasurers Report
January 2, 2005

Balance Forward	\$1257.88
Dues collected this period	\$36.00
Balance	\$1293.88

Please note that there is a \$12.00 discrepancy in the balance forward from the final balance of the October report due to an accounting error on my part.

MiQP Plaques will be paid for in January. \$540 of the above funds is being held for the MiQP Plaque sponsors. MRRC also sponsors one plaque at \$60

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis Ward, KT8X

MRRC 2004 SS Scores

Collected By Dave Pruett, K8CC

For 2004, MRRC accepted a challenge from the Minnesota Wireless Association (MWA) to compete head to head in the Unlimited category of the Sweepstakes Affiliated Club Competition. Here are the MRRC scores which were reported on the MRRC or 3830 reflectors:

CW Scores					SSB Scores				
Call	Op	QSOs	Secs	Score	Call	Op	QSOs	Secs	Score
AC8E	K8MR	400	74	59,200	AC8W		200	66	26,400
AD8P		116	53	12,296	AD8P		?	?	5,328
AF8A		698	78	108,888	K5ZG		602	80	96,320
K5ZG		124	56	13,888	K8AAX		72	37	5,328
K8AAX		327	68	44,472	K8AJS		252	73	36,792
K8AJS		601	80	96,160	K8BB	multi	1662	80	265,920
K8AQM		174	67	23,316	K8CC	multi	1151	80	184,160
K8AZ	K8MR	491	75	73,650	K8DD		180	64	23,040
K8CC	multi	1186	80	189,760	K8GT		241	66	31,812
K8GT		420	77	64,680	K8MAD	K8CC	479	74	70,892
K8JM	multi	814	80	130,240	K8MR		652	78	101,712
K8KHZ		170	65	22,100	K8NWD		434	80	69,440
K8MR		401	75	60,150	K9TM		684	80	109,440
K8NWD		306	72	44,064	KP2A		1698	80	271,680
K8SIA		218	60	26,160	KT8X		110	55	12,100
K9NW		1095	80	175,200	N8EA		50	31	3,100
K9TM		384	72	55,296	N8HR	multi	1735	80	277,600
KT8X		821	80	131,360	N8IE		508	71	72,136
N8IE		494	78	77,064	N8KM		970	80	155,200
N8IW		335	72	48,240	N8KR		1500	80	240,000
N8NX		240	63	30,240	N8NX		416	77	64,064
N8SS		638	79	100,804	N8OZ		71	71	10,082
N8TR	K8MR	325	70	45,500	N8SS		369	67	49,446
NN8UU	N8VW	461	78	71,916	N8VW		600	78	93,600
NU8Z		808	78	126,048	NU8Z		402	71	57,084
VE1JF	W8MJ	1185	78	184,860	NX8C		184	71	26,128
W8CAR		908	79	143,464	W8EDU	multi	476	74	70,448
W8EDU	multi	742	80	118,720	W8FT	multi	752	80	120,320
W8FT	multi	512	79	80,896	W8MJ		1622	80	259,520
W8KW	W8UE	736	80	117,760	W8TM		388	71	55,096
W8RU		372	74	55,056	Total:		30 entries		2,864,188
W8TM		528	77	81,312					
WD8S		402	77	61,908					
Total:		33 entries		2,674,668					

5,538,856 points is a new record for MRRC, exceeding the 5,465,897 we scored in 1984 (also an unlimited entry). 63 total entries is the second-best ever for MRRC, exceeded only by the 82 entries from 1984. While the 87,918 average score per entry is an improvement from 2003, it is below the MRRC 28-year average of 97,534

So how did we do? It's hard to tell at this point because we've not heard any claimed totals from MWA. Comparisons on the 3830 reflector would appear to show the two clubs in the same ballpark in terms of big gun scores. However, our claimed total is well below MWA's four year average of right around 6 million, so unless they have a sub-standard year, we may well have fallen short.

Still, there were a number of excellent MRRC scores made this year in SS for which we all should be proud. There were a number of new operators, new stations, and old operators at new stations. Hopefully everyone got their logs in to the ARRL on time, and properly credited to MRRC. If you forgot, even though the deadline is passed get on the computer, send in the log, and pray for mercy :-)

Mad River Radio Club

2727 Harris Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198



January VHF SS

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

Too years ago, MRRC finished 11th of 24 clubs in the January VHF SS Affiliated Club Competition with only three entries. This past year, we were again 11th out of slightly fewer entries (22) but we had five logs this time - **K8CC**, **K8MR**, **W8RU**, **K8SIA** and **W8WTS** carried forward the MRRC colors (gotta love the searchable ARRL database!).

VHF contesting is an endeavor where a little bit of local activity can make a lot of difference. We're seeing quite a few new people show up on 50/144/432 trying

out their new Yaesu FT-817/857/897 radios. If you're in that category yourself, why not join in on the fun?

VHF is a spectrum where "real" antennas make a huge difference over random wires or loading up whatever you have. The good thing is that VHF antennas are typically pretty small and/or light. Here's some ideas.

For 50 MHz, a 3L yagi is about 6' long, only weighs a couple of pounds and can be lifted with one hand. If there is no room on the mast above your tribander, try strapping it to the boom - preferably forward of the tribander's driven element. Want a homebrew quickie? Try K8MR's 6M wire di-

pole built inside PVC tubing with a "T" at the center for the feedline to exit.

On 2M, turn the small yagi you have for FM horizontal and see what you can work, or a 2L quad is a great homebrew project. For 432, the best project is probably N6NB's quagi—check out any recent ARRL Handbook. For even more ideas, check out WA5VJB's Cheap Yagis for 144 MHz and up at <http://www.clarc.org/Articles/uhf.htm>.

You don't have to spend all weekend to have fun on VHF. Come on and give it a try. Three entries two years ago, five last year, how about ten this year?

Club Resources

The Mad River Radio Club is an ARRL affiliated club of amateur radio contesting enthusiasts. The club is centered near Findlay, OH 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 e-mail address shown at right. 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 above. Please make checks payable to *Mad River Radio Club*.

The club roster appears annually in the October/November issue of the **Flash**.

The Mad River Net is held on Monday nights at 8:30 PM Eastern time on 3825 KHz.

The MRRC web site is <http://www.mrrc.net>.

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

K8MAD is the club callsign of the Mad River Radio Club.

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