

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



From the Big Fish

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Upcoming Events

6 February
North American Sprint - SSB

13 February
North American Sprint - CW

19-20 February
ARRL DX CW Contest

26-27 February
CQ 160M SSB Contest

5-6 March
ARRL DX SSB Contest

26-27 March
CQ WPX SSB Contest

9 April
K8CC Pre-MiQP MRRC Meeting

16-17 April
Michigan QSO Party

Greetings MRRCers!

If you spent any time in the recent ARRL SSB DX contest, you no doubt got a good taste of what things will be like the world of DX contesting for the next few years. Sunday was particularly brutal and, as luck would have it, that's the only time I was able to get in front of the radio due to a long business trip. Despite the tough conditions, there is always something interesting happening somewhere on the bands whether it be an oddball multiplier that finds its way to your log on five (or six!) bands or a freaky five minute opening to somewhere, particularly when it might be a seemingly dead 10M. That's why I always say it's best to turn the radio on and tune around. Contesters persevere!

Spring will be soon upon us and with it comes the unofficial start of the state QSO party season. Have

you got your plans together for MiQP? It's only a month away....time flies, eh? Check out the MiQP website (www.miqp.org) for lots of new info on county activity history as well as an extensive collection of past results. As always, I hope all MRRCers can block out some time for MiQP. As the sponsoring organization, it's important that we support the event with activity from within the state as well as from out of state. I haven't seen much chatter yet on the reflectors but I would presume many of the usual suspects are planning mobile efforts. I've heard some rumors of a contingent of W9 types steering multiple vehicles toward MI as well. Tune in on April 16th!

The week before MiQP is the annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape MRRC meeting. You'll find the details elsewhere in this issue. As

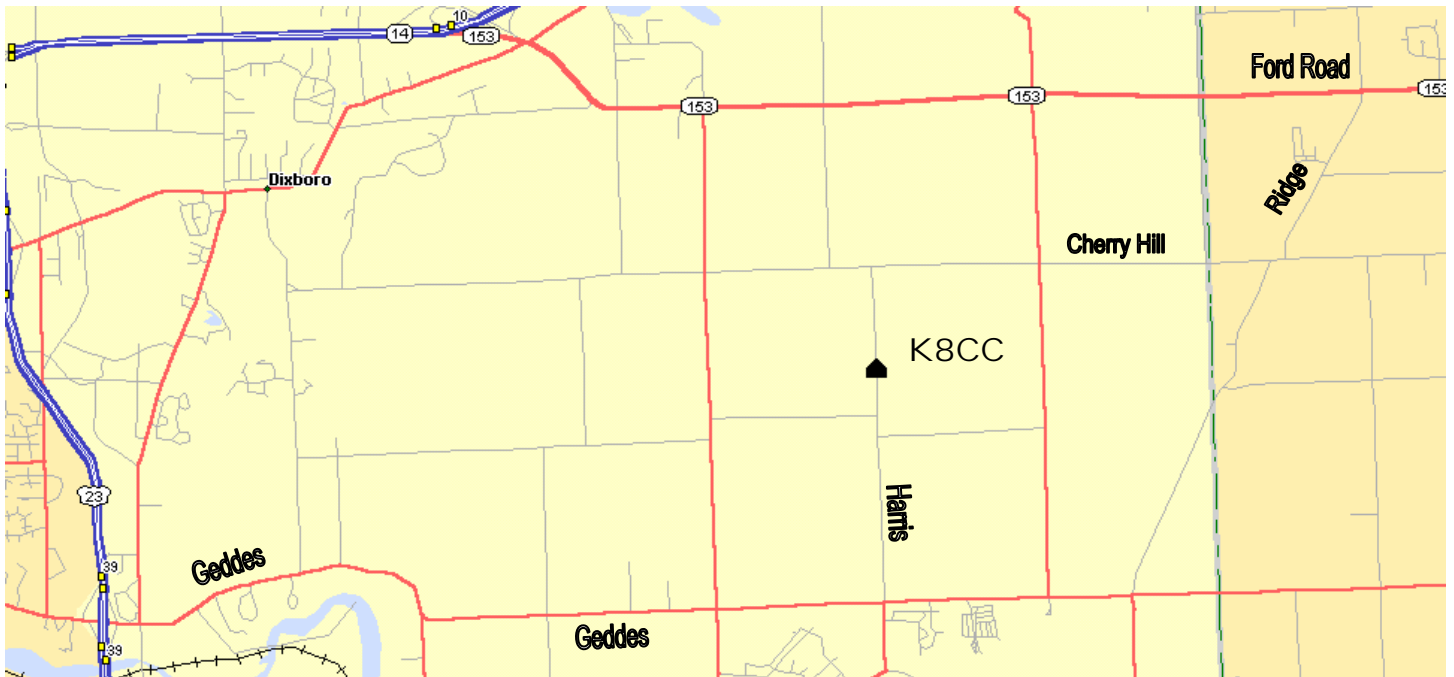
one of only two meetings in MI, I especially encourage all our members there to put it on your calendars. Of course, everyone is welcome! This has traditionally been an opportunity to show off and exchange ideas on mobile installations and operating.

WPX Phone is just around the corner. There are other QSO parties in GA and FL in April as well as numerous other events of different flavors. As my friend K9GY often says, "Get Radioactive!" See you on the bands and Go Mad River!

73, Mike K9NW

★★★
 ★
 ★ **April 16-17** ★
 ★ **2005 Michigan QSO Party** ★
 ★ **MRRC Is The Sponsoring Club** ★
 ★ **See <http://www.miqp.org> For More Details** ★
 ★★★

K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MiQP Meeting



Treasurers Report
March 13, 2005

Balance Forward	\$1293.88
Dues collected this period	\$12
Voided Check (from 11/03)	\$35.64
MiQP Plaques	(\$556.00)
Flash Expenses (10/03-01/05)	(\$77.70)
MRRC Challenge Plaques	(\$120.00)
Balance	\$587.82

\$480 for the MiQP plaques were from other organizations until payment was due to WZ8P. MRRC's only expense for MiQP plaques was the plaque which we sponsor.

I know it's early, but the annual Dayton Dues Collection will occur at the meeting on Saturday in Hara Arena. If any of you wish, please feel free to bring a check for the exact amount payable to Mad River Radio Club. If you won't be able to make it, I will happily collect your dues early

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis Ward, KT8X

The sixth annual K8CC Cabin Fever Escape & Pre-MiQP MRRC meeting will be Saturday April 9, 2005 starting around 12:00 noon.

The meeting is an opportunity to get out of the house after the long winter, and join with other MRRCers in discussing plans for the Michigan QSO Party, to shoot the breeze about radio stuff and see the K8CC station.

Lunch will be provided. To assist planning, please RSVP to k8cc@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

Directions:

From the West:

- US-23 to Geddes Road (exit 39) and go east
- Follow Geddes Road past Prospect (light) one mile to Harris Road
- Turn north (left) on Harris for 1½ miles to K8CC on left

From the East:

- I-275 to Ford Road (M-153) west
- Follow Ford Road for 4 miles to Ridge Road south (left)
- Follow Ridge Road for one mile to Cherry Hill west (right)
- Follow Cherry Hill for 3 miles to Harris Road
- Turn south (left) on Harris for ½ mile to K8CC on right

(Harris and Cherry Hill are dirt roads)

Michigan QSO Party

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

As this is being written, the 2005 Michigan QSO Party is about four weeks away. As MRRC is the sponsoring club for MiQP, we'd like to encourage all MRRCCers to participate; particularly if you live in MI.

The history of the MiQP dates back to at least 1970, when a contest announcement appeared in the April 1970 QST Operating Events section. The announcement said to send logs to the Central MI ARC (CMARC). It is believed that CMARC started the MiQP. In 1975, the Oak Park (MI) ARC assumed responsibility for the MiQP until 1996 when events transpired against it. First, the Dayton Hamvention moved to the MiQP weekend, followed by a financially disastrous Oak Park Swap & Shop which busted the club's budget. In 1997, the Eastern MI ARC and Hazel Park (MI) ARC joined forces to sponsor MiQP. Under the guidance of MRRCCers **Hank, K8DD** and **Mike, WD8S**. MiQP continued through 1998 when MRRC took over in 1999.

Under MRRC, MiQP has been organized by an informal group of MI hams. Most are MRRCCers, but efforts are made to involve hams from other clubs. In 2003, MiQP got it's own web site at <http://www.miqp.org> and its own e-mail reflector.

Through the records of certain MI hams, we've been able to assemble the results of MiQPs dating back to 1978, only missing 1979, 1992-93, and 1995. These results are posted on the web site. From these results, certain information about MiQP can be ascertained:

- 58% of the fixed station entries over the course of MiQP history have come from just four counties: St. Clair, Lenawee, Oakland, and Macomb. This directly correlates to certain clubs who have

focused on MiQP at various times: L'Anse Creuse, then EMARC, then the Adrian ARC. This illustrates an important reality - MiQP's success depends on clubs.

- Fourteen MI counties have never had a fixed station log submitted: Allegan, Barry, Cass, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Mason, Montcalm, Muskegon and Oceana in the Lower Peninsula, and Chippewa, Gogebic, Luce, Ontonagon and Schoolcraft in the Upper.

Back in the 80s, MiQP had the reputation as a QSO party with good activity. Log entries averaged 151/year from 1981-83, peaking in 1982 with 166. The number of entries dropped below 100 in 1987 and did not recover above that level until 2001. From 2002-04 log entries averaged 168/year, peaking at 204 in 2003 before a slight drop in 2004.

How does the MiQP compare against other state QSO parties? In terms of total entries based on published results, the "big three" are PA, FL, then CA with 600-700 entries. The "second tier" appears to be WI, MI, OH and IL with totals in the mid-to-high 100s to low 200s. The others appear to have well under 100 entries, if they publish results at all.

It is instructive to consider what makes the "big three" successful. The CaQP and FIQP are geographically located to make maximum use of the high bands (20/15/10) for widespread American and international coverage. They also enjoy the support of one or more large DX and contesting clubs in their areas. PaQP, on the other hand, relies mostly on 80/40 for short skip to the population centers, and while the PA DX/contest clubs don't ignore PaQP, most of the activity comes from the members of the general interest clubs in the state.

The MiQP committee has been trying to follow the PA model by recruiting the involvement of MI gen-

eral interest clubs. MiQP Communications Manager Mark, NU8Z maintains a steady flow of information. We also solicit the support of the ARRL leadership at the section and division level.

We're pursuing this approach because the success of MiQP relies on the activity of MI hams. And yet, out-of-state activity has out-paced in-state activity in MiQP by 20.8% over the past two years.

Drawing from the CA model, the MiQP committee is pursuing the support of the state's major DX (Southeastern MI DX Association and MI DX Association) and contesting clubs (MRRC) to support MiQP.

This is where the MRRC membership comes in. By my count, MRRC has 41 MI members living in 12 different counties. 27 of those were active in the 2004 MiQP, along with four OH "visitors". While this is a pretty good percentage for the in-state crew, we need **everyone** to get on. It's only twelve hours on a Saturday, but even a part-time effort would help build activity.

As stated earlier, 14 MI counties have never had a fixed station entry in 23 MiQPs; 29 more have had fewer than five. Why not do a portable operation from a rare county (i.e., Field Day in April) when there is a real contest at stake? This could be a chance for the OH MRRC contingent to join in - check out the MI DNR web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr> for state campgrounds and cabins which might make great MiQP QTHs.

I know state QSO parties are not everyone's cup of tea. I too used to nod politely when K8DD or AC8W would mention MiQP. However I've come to recognize that MI is an interesting state, and that a camaraderie exists with other ops in the state. MiQP may not be high skill like a Sprint, or have the national significance of SS or a DX contest, but it fosters that camaraderie. I hope you'll come and join us on April 16. □



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MRRC Scores

SPRINT SSB										
KW8N	307	49	15,043		W8AV	1719	438	2,258,766	+pkt	
K9TM	254	44	11,176		K8JM	591	251	445,023	+pkt	
K8MR	140	38	5,320		N8TR	303	299	271,791	+pkt	
K9NW	90	31	2,790		K8AZ	3110	489	4,543,299	M/S	
									+W1NN, K8BL, N8AA, N8PW, N8TR, W8BIN, W8CAR, W8GN, W8KIC, WB8K, WT8C	
SPRINT CW					K8CC	2869	460	3,959,220	M/S	
W1NN	283	42	11,866	@N2BA (NY)					+K8BB, KK8I, W8LU, W8MJ	
K8AZ	281	40	11,521	N8AA	PJ7/ND5S	3036	309	2,814,372		
K8MR	156	38	5,968							
W8WTS	124	35	4,340							
CQ WPX RTTY					CQ 160M SSB					
N8KM	932	386	968,860		N8TR	421	55	18	75,117	+pkt
PJ7/ND5S	456	231	397,782		AD8P	403	53	7	54,000	
W8RU	130	102	37,638		N8IE	160	41	4	16,380	
K8AJS	123	101	28,785		K8GT	123	36	1	10,212	
ARRL DX CW					ARRL DX SSB					
K8GL	1834	361	1,986,222		W8MJ	1121	314	1,055,982		
K5ZG	531	240	378,720		K8GL	1087	305	994,605		
N8IE	314	170	160,140	QRP	K8MR	106	73	23,214		
N8IW	311	149	138,570		N8TR	1323	418	1,657,788	+pkt	
K8GT	261	152	119,016		K8AZ	411	411	505,763	+pkt	
K9NW	469	78	109,746	80M	K9NW	230	103	71,070	+pkt	
K8MR	563	99	167,211	@W4MYA (VA)	AD8P	213	131	83,709	M/S	
K8AJS	126	59	22,302	80M					+KC8RSA, KC8UQB, KC8LVP	
					N8TR	1323	418	1,657,788	+pkt	
					FS/KT8X	2025	184	1,117,800		

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 mrrc yourcall".

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

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