

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://WWW.MRRC.NET



From the Big Fish

By Ken Meier, W8MJ w8mj@sbcglobal.net



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The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting longer, and the weather is definitely getting cooler, a very clear sign that the long days of summer are coming to end, and that fall is just around the corner. And with fall just around the corner it points toward another new contest season on the horizon. I hope that everyone has those antenna projects done or near completion as we all get ready for the upcoming contest season.

I want to thank everyone that got on to support the NU1AW/8 effort in the IARU HF Championship. I thought the planning and logistics for all the stations involved, the joint venture with North Coast Contesters, and the overall outcome spoke highly of the Mad River Radio Club. A special thanks to **Tim Mitchell, K9TM** for his outstanding effort in developing the custom software to link the four host stations together. Great job by all of the host stations involved, and it appears by

the scores submitted that NU1AW/8 will be the top entry for Multi-Multi in the U.S.A. It also had the third-highest count of WRTC stations worked **in the world**. Another firm statement of what can be accomplished when MRRC utilizes its resources and relationships with other clubs. Fantastic job by all.

This coming weekend is the Findlay Hamfest, and MRRC Club meeting, the details for which are given elsewhere in the **FLASH**. I want to apologize to the club, because I will not be able to attend due to commitments to a family vacation. While I certainly consider the club meeting to be important, especially as your President, there are times when family comes first. I hope that everyone understands, and accepts my sincere apologies for not being able to be at the meeting. I have asked former club 'Fish' **Dave, K8CC**, to lead the meeting on my behalf.

On the horizon, the contest (s) that seem to gather the attention of everyone are the November Sweepstakes. We are exactly two months away from SS, and I would like for us to start focusing on it, and start making plans to put forth a strong club effort. In the past, MRRC has had very good showings, and have taken the winner's club gavel for the Medium Club category a number of times. This shows what this club is capable of.

SS is a contest where small and medium stations can make a lot of QSOs from W8. MRRC has always been a mix of "big", "medium" and "small" stations. The club's score relies on it's members getting on and working the contest. What can the

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Upcoming Events

5-6 August
NA QSO Party - CW

12-13 August
WAE DX Contest - CW

19-20 August
NA QSO Party - SSB

26-27 August
Ohio QSO Party

9-10 September
NA Sprint - CW
Findlay Hamfest/MRRC Mtg
ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party
WAE DX Contest—SSB

17 September
NA Sprint - SSB

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September 10, 2006
2006 Findlay Hamfest
MRRC Will Be There - Details Inside!

Big Fish

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club do to help members get on the air (and have fun) in SS?

The Findlay MRRC Meeting will give us an opportunity to start planning for Sweepstakes. I hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend and provide ideas on how we can make this year Sweepstakes are best MRRC effort ever. Although I cannot attend the meeting, I will go on record that W8MJ will be on full bore in both modes of SS. Let's come away from Findlay not determined to coerce people to work SS, but determined to find ways to help them have fun in SS (which will make them want to get on). Fundamental to this is using the MRRC reflector as a means of continuing to carry those plans generated at Findlay forward towards Sweepstakes. I would like to propose nominating two team captains within Ohio and Michigan, one for the East and West in both sections. That way the team captains can focus on their assignments to seek those stations in their area to get on the air.

I often think that many people are reluctant to get on the radio for Sweepstakes; because they feel their station is not adequate enough or they feel that they cannot compete. However, I want everyone to understand that it takes a team effort to win a club competition. While individual efforts are great, it takes a team to make it all come together. So small or big station setup, antenna setup, your station counts when it comes to Sweepstakes.

Lets use the next couple of months before Sweepstakes come upon us to get ready, and get a game plan that will maximize the efforts of the club as a whole. Mad River Radio Club has made its mark in Sweepstakes with its past achievements, we need to forge ahead and set new records by getting as many people on the air as we can to make are mark in a new era.

I am looking forward to the dialogue and suggestions as we move forward to prepare for the annual fall event "Sweepstakes".

73, Ken W8MJ

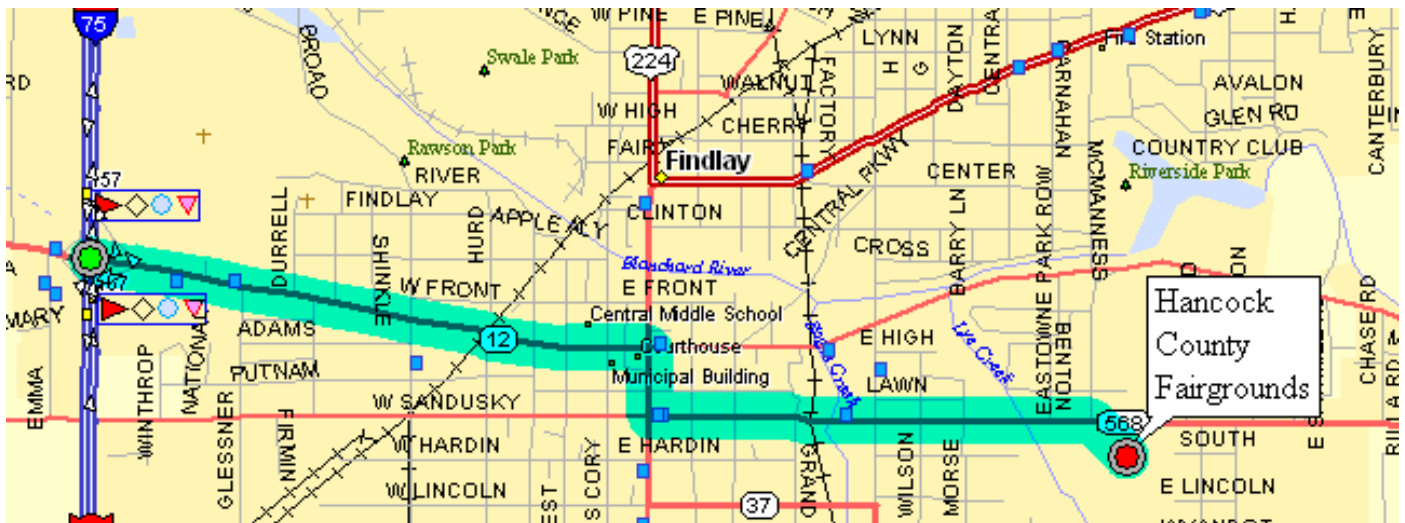
MRRC Meeting at The Findlay Hamfest September 10, 2006

The next meeting of the Mad River Radio Club will be at the 64th Findlay Hamfest, at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Findlay, OH. While this is the same location as previous years, the map below shows how to get there. From I-75, get off at Exit 157 and head east on SR12. Turn right on Main Street and go south two blocks to SR568, then turn left and follow the road to the Fairgrounds.

Findlay is an important part of the MRRC year. It comes after OhQP and the summer is wrapping up. We would like to have a serious discussion of this fall's

November SS and how we can be more competitive in our annual SS Challenge with the Minnesota Wireless Association. We'd also like to hear what the membership is interested in and how the club can provide support to the membership in the fall contesting activities.

Admission to the hamfest is \$6. The MRRC meeting is planned to be at 10:00 AM in Building 4 which is along the western edge of the hamfest area. There may be a scheduling conflict with the building, in which case the meeting may be delayed until 11:00 AM. Listen to the hamfest PA for the latest info.



An Explanation Of The MRRC "Club Circle"

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

If you hang around MRRC long enough, you'll eventually hear people refer to the "Club Circle" There seems to be a fair amount of confusion as to what the circle is (or isn't) so we thought it would be a good idea to explain the whole thing.

The history of the club circle dates back to 1972, when the ARRL, in order to prevent the formation of huge, artificial contest clubs that only existed on paper, made a rule for clubs entering an ARRL Affiliated Club Competition in the Medium and Unlimited categories that **all members contributing scores for that competition had to reside within a 175 mile diameter circle.**

The effect of this rule is that for ARRL Club Competitions, a club such as MRRC has to identify a geographic club center and submit a roster to the ARRL showing all club members and stations that are located within 175 miles of the club center. The ARRL then will only count scores from members/stations from that roster when totaling MRRC's club score.

MRRC's original club center in 1972 was selected to be at Marion, OH, which is east of Lima and north of Columbus. This location was chosen to encompass the population of MRRC members, as it was at that time. Since then, the circle has been moved twice to reflect changes in the club's demographics. In the early 90s the center was moved northwest to Findlay, to better cover the growing membership base in Michigan. In the late 90s the center was moved to Lima, OH, to better cover a growing cadre of MRRCers in SE OH and in WV. The club center has remained at Lima to this day.

The map shown at the bottom of this page illustrates the current club circle, covering a 175 mile radius from Lima, OH. The circle covers all of Ohio except for a narrow sliver along the eastern border. It also covers approximately one-third of Michigan's lower peninsula. In the process, it also covers a large portion of Indiana, which is of no benefit to MRRC since we have no members there (and most contesters belong to the Society Of Midwest Contesters (SoMC)).

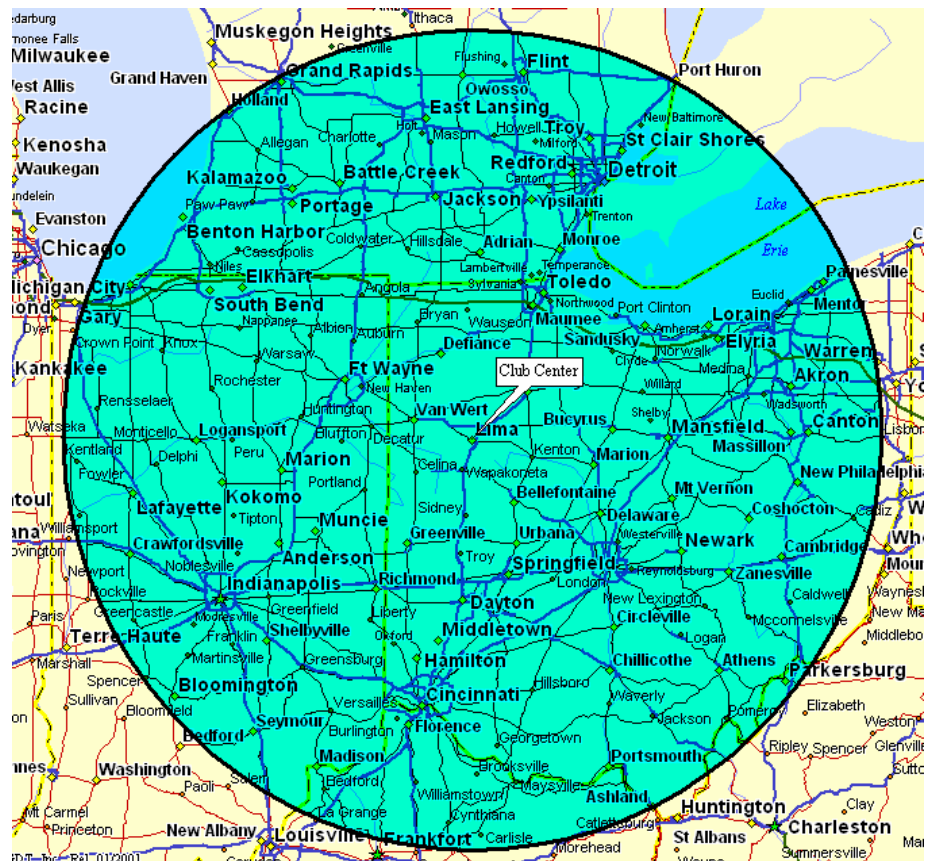
Some things to recognize about the MRRC Club Circle:

- 1) The club circle only applies to score submissions for ARRL Club Competitions like SS, ARRL160, ARRL10 and ARRL DX. It does not apply for score submissions in contests sponsored by the NCJ, CQ Magazine,

or any others

- 2) The club circle has nothing to do with membership in MRRC. Everyone is welcome to join MRRC - you do not have to live or operate from within the club circle to be a member.
- 3) As mentioned earlier, the club tries to position the circle to cover the maximum number of club members. If you find yourself outside the circle, and you'd like to be inside, please contact club officers **W8MJ** or **KT8X** to indicate your interest, and the club will look into a way to accommodate your request. Moving the club circle is considered official club business and requires a membership vote at an official club meeting (historically, this has been done at the Dayton meeting).

Hopefully, this information will clear up any misunderstanding about the MRRC Club Circle and what it applies to.



Mad River Radio Club

Dave Pruett K8CC
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Treasurers Report

September 2, 2006

Balance Forward	\$1184.96
Dues collected this period	\$765.00
2006 MiQP Plaques (holding)	\$390.00
2006 OhQP Plaques (holding)	\$300.00
2006 Dayton SITS Expenses	(\$290.00)
2006 Super Suite Expenses	(\$150.00)
Flash Publication Expenses	(\$33.53)
2005 OhQP Plaques	(\$600.00)
Balance	\$1576.43

Monies collected for MiQP and OhQP plaques

are held as sponsors send in checks to the respective contest committees. This money is disbursed when the plaques are produced and should result in a net zero balance.

The only MiQP and OhQP expenses MRRC is responsible for are the In-State Club Competition plaque that MRRC sponsors and up to \$50 in incidental expenses, as approved by the membership at the 2006 Dayton meeting. This applies to each contest.

Please remember that Dayton was the end of one MRRC dues year and the beginning of another. Members receiving a FLASH by mail can check the address area above to see your dues status. Dues can be paid at the Findlay meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Ward, KT8X

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-request@contesting.com. The body of the message should include the word "subscribe".

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

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