



October/November  
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### Inside this issue

Big Fish

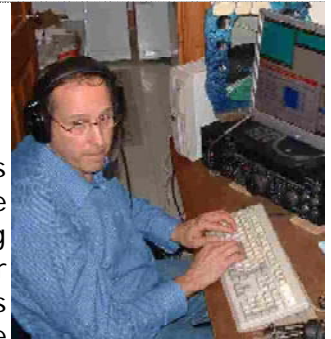
Treasurer Report

Member Profile

SS Operations

### From The 'Big Fish'

Ken Meier, W8MJ [w8mj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w8mj@sbcglobal.net)



One of the biggest events of the fall in contesting is November Sweepstakes. As of this issue of the *Flash*, we are only two weeks away from it taking place. Sweepstakes as always been a big event for Mad River Radio Club to focus on, and this year is certainly no exception. In fact this year we are trying to focus more on Sweepstakes, and encourage more of our membership to get on and operate. There has been a number of reflecto notes to help us get ready, we have team captains in place for Michigar and Ohio to help contact members to encourage them to get on the air. We continue to post "Sweepstakes Plans" as members of the club post their operating schedules on the reflector, and we will be posting those operating plans on the club website for everyone to see; just another means of helping to spur interest in getting on and making a difference for the club.

Speaking of our club website, the new club website is up and running full ORV at <http://madriverradioclub.org>. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to get this up in running. A big thanks to Dave, K8CC for all of his hard work in getting this ready for the club. I personally feel the club will like the ease of maneuvering through this website, and the links to view all the interest in Mad River Radio Club.

As I have stated in previous notes on the reflector, and the previous Flash we need a total club effort in Sweepstakes this year. Three years ago we created a travel trophy as a means of spurring interest in Sweepstakes between Mad River Radio Club and Minnesota Wireless Association Club. To date they have captured that traveling trophy from us for the past two years. It is time for us as a club to mount a grand effort to take home this prize for ourselves. We can certainly do this, and have proven this in the past by winning the Medium Club Gavel several times. We do have the resources within the club to do this. *(continued)*

### Upcoming Events

Oct 28-29  
*CQWW SSB DX Contest*

November 4-5  
*ARRL CW Sweepstakes*

November 18-19  
*ARRL SSB Sweepstakes*

November 25-26  
*CQWW CW DX Contest*

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[<< Home](#)

[Next >>](#)

## From The 'Big Fish' (Continued)

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I want to encourage everyone to get on the club website and review the "SS Handbook", as well as the "SS Presentation" at Findlay. The "SS Handbook" has extremely great value added information to help us as a club to be very successful in Sweepstakes this year. With regards to strategy, operating times, and types of antenna setup this valuable information focuses on W8 for operating. While everyone seems to think we have to have those big HF antennas to garner the points, the "SS Demographics" prove otherwise. While you do need a small Tri-bander for the multipliers out West, our biggest qso rate is in the Eastern half of the country. That is were the dipoles on 40/80 are the biggest gain for us. I point this out for one specific reason, and that is you do not need a "Gonzo" type setup to make a difference in the overall club aggregate score. A small station setup with a small tri-bander and dipoles can be very successful. The biggest thing is we need more operating time in the chair. As the "SS Presentation" for last year pointed out at Findlay, we were very low in operating times and overall that proved out to be our own demise with a lower aggregate score for the club.

As your "Fish" I will be out front leading the club battle cry "Go Mad River!!! ". I plan a full-scale all out 24-hour effort from the W8MJ station on both modes. But I cannot do this alone nor can anyone of you. It takes a total club effort to win this thing. I am not concerned about just fielding 50 stations. We have a total active club membership of 79 members. Wouldn't it be fantastic to have all 79 members on the air operating? I want to encourage all members to try and make time for this club effort. If you are planning a multi operation and need operators, then let us know on the reflector so those looking for a place to operate can make contact with you. For those of you that do not feel you can do a full time effort, then get on an operate successfully for the time you have to be on.

I look forward to working each and every one of you in Sweepstakes. Lets really make a difference this year in Sweepstakes. Lets come home with the prize. Go Mad River!!!!

Your Fish

**Ken, W8MJ**

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## Mad River Radio Club Treasurers Report October 17, 2006

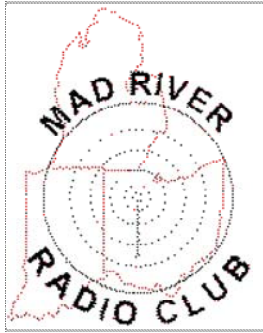
Balance Forward	\$1576.43
Dues collected this period	\$132.00
Balance	\$1708.43

Monies collected for MiQP and OQP are held as sponsors send in checks to the respective contest committee. MRRRC's only expenses for MiQP and OQP plaques are the individual plaques that we sponsor and up to \$50 per QSO party as approved at the Dayton 2006 Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

**Dennis Ward, KT8X**

[<< Prev](#) | [Next >>](#)



## Member Profile

# Gary Mikitin, AF8A



By Goose Steingass, W8AV



One of Mad River's more active CW contesters is Gary Mikitin, AF8A. Born and raised in the Cleveland area 44 years ago, he has spent his entire life in the same area. He received a B.S. in electrical engineering from Case Western Reserve University in 1984 and has been employed at the Lincoln Electric Company, the world's largest manufacturer of arc welding products, ever since. He spent 15 years in research and development where he worked mainly in electronics, controls and software. For the past seven years, he has been a manager in the company's manufacturing operations and currently heads up none of the data management departments of the company. He says that his job has taken him all across the U.S. and has also made trips to Finland, Japan and other DX entities in Europe, but has never had the time to operate outside the continental U.S.

While a freshman in high school Gary met his elmer, Dave, WB8YSI (currently inactive) who set him on the road to getting a license. He was licensed in 1977 as WD8MGP and held that call until December of 1978 when he obtained his current call. At that time his interests were CW operating and traffic handling where he ran into a couple other infamous MRRRC types Jim Galm (then WB8WTS, now W8WTS) and Goose Steingass (then WD8LLD, now W8AV) who at that time were masquerading as WB8WTS and WD8LLD. Once he got to college, AF8A has less operating time and turned to more of a DXer. He also spent time as the station maintenance man at Case's club station W8EDU. Gary delved into some of the digital modes, including AMTOR, after graduation with a clicky Drake TR-4CW.

The contesting bug didn't bite Gary until well after college. He credits getting the bug from WTS who used to tell many stories about operating the old Ohio QSO Party from 'rare' Geauga County. AF8A started operating CW Sweepstakes but says that he could not stomach more than a few hundred QSOs in a weekend. But as he claims, "that which doesn't kill you makes you stronger" and he eventually took a real liking to the contest both as a single operator or as an integral part of a multi-op team from W8EDU with Jim and Dan, W8RZ. In the late 80s AF8A, W8WTS, and W8RZ would team up for many SS and Field Day efforts which continues to this day. These adventures and a fateful trip to the Findlay hamfest in 1991 led to Gary becoming part of the W8AV contest crew where he has been a participant in every multi-op CQWW CW, ARRL CW and WPX CW effort from then on. He has only missed one CQWW event in 1992 which Gary refers to as his "asterisk year". Instead of operating the contest, Gary made the trip to W6 land to spend time with his future XYL Christine. W8AV still ribs him to this day about letting sex take precedent over contesting that year!

Currently, domestic and DX CW contests are about the only operating that Gary does. He says that contest weekends can be scheduled as opposed to casual operating time, so it is easier to set aside time for them. *(continued)*

## Member Profile (Continued)

When not contesting, Gary enjoys the smell of rosin core solder. Two QRP rigs and many station accessories are proof of his enjoyment of building some of his own equipment. He also built a Heathkit SW-717 shortwave receiver in his pre license days. Gary's current station consists of an Icom 738, Logickeyer, and audio filter. He also keeps a Schurr paddle and a Vibroplex paddle on his desk at all times. He claims that one can not have too much CW hardware! His antenna farm consists of dipoles for 30 meters and the higher bands and vertical antennas that will fit on his small city lot in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. He gets out well with his 100 watt signal on the high bands but doesn't have the space for antennas for the lower bands. (He has a killer signal into PJ2T - ed)

Gary is also an avid mobile participant in the Ohio and Michigan QSO parties teaming up with operating partner W8AV for these two events. He keeps making improvements to his mobile antennas and vows to one day beat the K8MR crew in the Ohio and Michigan events. AF8A can also be heard in some of the other state QSO parties to hand out points for the other participants in these QSO parties.

Outside of hamming, Gary and Christine also enjoy recreational cycling driving to all parts of Ohio to take 15-50 mile cycling trips on weekends. The bicycles always go on vacation with Gary and Chris. He also spends some of the winter months in his basement workshop refinishing furniture or building other projects for his home.

[<< Prev](#) | [Next >>](#)



**MRRRC**

**SS**

**Planned Operations**



<b>CW</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Hrs</b>		<b>SSB</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Hrs</b>
W8MJ	S/O Assisted HP	24		W8MJ	S/O Assisted HP	24
N8IE	S/O QRP	24		N8IE	S/O QRP	24
K8DD	S/O HP	24		K8DD	S/O HP	24
K9NW	S/O HP	24		KP2TM	S/O HP	24
K9TM	S/O LP/HP?	24		W8TM	S/O LP	20
N8SS	S/O LP	24		W8CAR	S/O HP	12
W8TM	S/O QRP	20		K8KHZ	S/O LP	6
K8MR	S/O HP Multiple QTHs	24		AD8J	S/O LP	24
W8UE	S/O LP @ KT8X QTH	24		W8FT	S/O HP	24
W8CAR	S/O LP	24		N8SS	S/O HP	12+
K8KHZ	S/O LP	6		K8GT	S/O LP	18-24
W8EDU	Multi-Operator	24				
K8CC	Multi-Operator	24				
AD8J	S/O LP	24				
N8ET	HP/QRP?	24				
K8GT	S/O LP	18-24				
N8XX	S/O LP	12				

<< Prev