Mad River Radio Club

April/May 2007

Volume 36 Issue 3

Inside this issue

Upcoming Events

April 21-22
Michigan QSO Party

April 28-29
Florida QSO Party

May 18-20
Dayton Hamvention

May 26-27
CQ WW WPX CW Contest

Download Printable Newsletter In .PDF Format

From The 'Big Fish'

Ken Meier, W8MJ
w8mj@sbcglobal.net

Wow, time has really flown by since the start of the contest season. Here we are into spring already, almost at the end of another season. A number of contests that the club operates in have occurred since our big effort in Sweepstakes back in November: the ARRL 160, CQ160, ARRL DX SSB/CW, and WPX SSB, and MiQP. By the way, Phone Sweepstakes and the complete web results for the 2006 Sweepstakes are now available on the ARRL website. I am pleased to announce that we did very well in our club effort. Compared to 2005 results we nearly doubled the club score in 2006. Final results place us with 57 entries and an overall club score of 4,765,040 so a great job by everyone. At our last club meeting at K8MR's Christmas party our fellow brethren from North Coast Contesters offered to join the ranks of MRRC for Sweepstakes next fall. So next year we should have even better opportunity to improve our overall score going forward in the club competition. This all came about as a result of our team effort with North Coast in IARU HF World Championship last year running NU1AW/8 together. It is great to see these two clubs continue to work together going forward.

Our most recent club efforts involved MiQP and preliminary results are showing log entries up over last year. Listening to the comments from various members within the club it appears that the special 1x1 callsign may have raised some interest. I know I had a great time being a part of the multi group operating K8MQP. Nothing beats the camaraderie of being together with other club members and enjoying each other's company and seeing the competitive spirit at work. It was great to work many MRRC stations during MiQP. My thanks to all the club members that got on and help make MiQP 2007 a great success. Just remember to send in your log.

With the warm weather upon us we get closer to the annual pilgrimage to Dayton to one of the biggest flea market and vendor setups for amateur radio. I hope everyone has been saving some of their hard earned dollars to satisfy your long awaited purchasing needs. Dayton is always a great time for club members to get together and catch up over the past year, to peruse the fleet market, vendor setups, and just relax at the The Suite In The Sun. See details about Dayton elsewhere in this issue. *(continued)*

From The 'Big Fish' (Continued)

One very important event that takes place at Dayton is our annual club meeting and the election of new officers. This year the Presidential reins will be turned over to someone new through the election process. So be ready to place your candidate of choice into nomination, but you will have to be quick, because the Mad River Railroad runs fast, and once you hear the whistling of Whoo-Oooh!! the train has already passed and someone has been railroaded for sure.

I am looking forward to seeing all those that can make it down to Dayton.

I would like to say thank you to everyone in the club for all of your support to me as your "Fish" over these past two years. I have really enjoyed serving as your president and appreciate everyone's efforts and involvement in making MRRC a great organization to be part of. A special thanks for those that have contributed a great deal of their time for making this club as great as it is. To our newsletter editor and web site webmaster, Dave, K8CC, thank you for your many hours of time you spend in behind the scenes gathering information and articles from other club members to make our news letter exciting to read. For all of your tireless efforts of commitment and dedication and service to this club over the years of its existence that help keep us going, thank you. To our Treasurer Dennis, KT8X, thank you for keeping us financially sound and straight throughout the year and your unique canny way of collecting dues. To our MRRC Challenge scorekeepers Sean, K8KHZ and Don, K8BB in supporting the club collecting all those scores and keeping track of the various contests to produce the winning recipient of the MRRC Challenge awards each year. A combined thank you to K8CC and to Jim, K8MR for their ongoing efforts to grow MiQP and OhQP. Your involvements have brought life back into these two QSO parties that continues to grow with enthusiasm each year.

We are pretty much a laid back group, but we all love this sport of amateur radio and contesting together. It is always fun to see the competitive spirit at work within the club and to what lengths one goes to in getting their station ready for club competition. I look forward to seeing the club continue to grow with more new members, and as a group continue to make our presence known in the contesting community as one of the major clubs.

Your Fish

Ken, W8MJ

MRRC Challenge Update

As Dayton approaches, we are closing in on the final tally for the 2005-2006 MRRC Challenge, the club's internal competition recognizing member activity over the past contest season. The Challenge is described on the MRRC web site, and was also the topic of an informative article in the May/June 2007 issue of the National Contest Journal on page 19.

At the MRRC Dayton meeting at noon on Saturday of the Hamvention®, we will be awarding the MRRC Challenge plaque(s) to the winner of the 2005-2006 Challenge, and certificates to the top ten finishers as well. So as to not spoil the surprise, we'll not provide an update in this issue. You'll just have to come to the meeting to find out who won (maybe it was YOU).

73,

Don, K8BB
MRRC Challenge Coordinator

Mad River Radio Club
Treasurer's Report
May 12, 2007

Balance Forwarded	$1708.43
Dues Collected This Period	$395.00
2006 MiQP Plaque (reimbursement)	$65.00
2007 MiQP Plaque Holding Funds	$130.00
K8MAD License Renewal	($20.80)
Web Hosting Account/URL Registration	($69.35)
2006 MiQP Plaques & Shipping	($680.87)
SS Plaques	($268.00)
Balance	$1319.41

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

Respectfully submitted

Dennis Ward, KT8X

MRRC Membership Dues Are Due

It's that time of year again. Dues for the 2007-08 year are due beginning at the Dayton Hamvention® meeting. Same low price - only $12 per year buys you the FLASH On-Line and web sites, sponsorship of four SS and one each MiQP and OhQP plaques, SITS, Super Suite sponsorship and more!

The roster is up to date on the club web site. If your name has 2006 next to it, I will be asking you for dues money. If you name shows 2007 or later, you are paid in full and I can't promise that I won't harass you, but I won't ask for money!

I'll be collecting dues at the MRRC meeting during the Hamvention® on Saturday at noon. Please bring exact change (or something close) if possible. If you can't make the meeting, feel free to mail me a check, payable to the Mad River Radio Club. Checks are also accepted at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you there!

73,
Dennis, KT8X

Mad River Radio Club

Schedule Of Events For

The 2007 Dayton Hamvention® Weekend

Not far off is the 2007 Dayton Hamvention®. Just about every ham in Ohio and the surrounding states knows about Dayton, and many have attended multiple times. Hamvention® is an event of importance to MRRC - it was the site of our founding in 1971, continues to be the site of our main meeting each year, and the best chance for eyeball QSOs between members. As MRRC's history with the Dayton Hamvention® has progressed over the years, the weekend has become one of club events and traditions. Most MRRCers are familiar with these events, but as new members have joined over the past year, we want to be sure everyone is aware of what's going on with MRRC at the Hamvention®.

One of the main attractions of Hamvention® is the huge fleamarket: ten plus acres of radio, computer and electronic goodies as far as the eye can see. Covering the fleamarket can be quite an exhausting experience; the walking alone is enough to wear you out, not to mention the physical effort to carry some treasure that you've purchased. However, MRRC has come to the aid of the weary fleamarketer: the **MRRC Suite In The Sun**.

The idea for the Suite In The Sun arose a number of years ago when MRRC decided to abandon it's traditional hospitality suite downtown at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in favor of something more members could benefit from. When pondering what to do, then-current MRRC Big Fish Dave, K8CC mused that since most MRRCers spend a large amount of the weekend outside at the fleamarket, a club gathering spot (a "suite" if you will) where members could sit down, rest their feet, and sip a could drink seemed like a good idea. Jim, K8MR coined the moniker "Suite In The Sun" (often contracted to "SITS") and a club tradition was born.

As can be seen from the picture to the left, the SITS takes up three fleamarket spaces. Club member Tim, KE8OC supplies the white canopy, which provides shade and protection from inclement weather. A club member's vehicle (usually a minivan, SUV or truck) is parked immediately behind the back wall of the canopy to provide a secure space where members can use to store purchases while they walk the fleamarket. Also on site is a picnic cooler filled with several types of soft drinks for club members and chairs for them to sit down. The tables at the front of the canopy are there for club members to sell items. Jim, K8MR and Dave, K8CC along with their teams of cohorts handle the setup and teardown of the SITS, while all the expenses for the SITS are borne by the club (your club dues at work). *(continued)*

MRRC Dayton Schedule Of Events (Continued)

This year the SITS will be in a slightly different location from years past, in an attempt to be somewhat closer to the action and not quite so far "out in right field". For 2007 the SITS will be located in fleamarket spaces 3617-3618-3619. Some conspiracy theorists believe this has to do with the 75 meter phone band expansion :-). The SITS will be open from approximately 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on the Friday and Saturday of the Hamvention®, but is closed down on Sunday.

As always, we are in need of stuff to fill the SITS fleamarket tables there. It always amazing what we can sell there. So clean out some junk and bring it along. We've sold lots of stuff, good and bad, over the years. Just be honest if something is broke, and it may turn into another ham's treasure.

Bring your stuff in as early on Friday as you can. For the Cleveland area members, Jim, K8MR can haul stuff down on Wednesday if you get it to him. For the Michiganders, Dave, K8CC and the MI crew can do likewise from their neck of the woods, departing around 11:00 AM Thursday from the K8CC QTH near Ypsilanti.

We will need volunteers to keep the booth staffed/occupied to mind the fleamarket tables. Not hard work, and in many ways easier than walking around all day. Please let Jim, K8MR know when you can help, or stop by as early as possible on Friday and sign up for a one or two hour time slot.

The second event on the MRRC Dayton Calendar is the **'Super Suite'** hospitality event downtown at the Crowne Plaza hotel, starting around 7:00 PM Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of Hamvention® week, and stays open late at night until everybody leaves.

Super Suite is co-sponsored by the North Coast Contesters (NCC), MRRC and the Frankford Radio Club (FRC). Many well-known DXers and contesters visit the Super Suite to enjoy the camaraderie of like minded amateurs. In the photo to the left, Pete, N8TR, Don, K8MFO and Paul, N4PN can be seen soaking up the atmosphere of the Super Suite.

The location of the Super Suite is the Crowne Plaza hotel in downtown Dayton, 33 East 5th Street, Dayton, OH 45402. The hotel is approximately 20 minutes from Hara Arena, and maps to the hotel are readily available on-line. Parking is available (but not free) in the adjacent parking structure shared with the Dayton Convention Center.

There is no charge for admittance to the Super Suite, but drinks are on your own tab from the bar. Each night of the Super Suite around midnight there is a free pizza party sponsored by some club or individuals. This year K8CC and K3LR are picking up the tab for the Thursday night pizza party in honor of our contesting colleagues which we've lost this past year (such as K2GM, N6ZZ, and MRRC's very own N8CQA).

MRRC Dayton Schedule Of Events (Continued)

The third (and perhaps the most important MRRC event on the Dayton Calendar is the official club meeting on Saturday at noon. The meeting takes place up in the bleachers of the Hara Ice Arena above/behind the Cushcraft exhibit. Just go to the Arena, look for the Cushcraft exhibit with all the antennas sticking up in the air and MRRC will be above/behind it.

The main purpose of the Dayton meeting is to collect dues, elect officers and to conduct any major business in front of the club. The latter is due to the fact that the Dayton meeting usually attracts the most club members of any meeting during the year. In the photo to the left from the 2004 meeting, then 'Big Fish' Mike, K9NW can be seen leading the business meeting, and immediately to his right, treasurer KT8X can be seen poised to collect dues. Another exciting event planned for the meeting is that K8BB will announce the annual MRRC Challenge results, and will award the plaque and certificates to the winner(s).

So that's Dayton for the MRRCer. SITS on Friday and Saturday during the fleamarket, the Super Suite on the evenings and the MRRC meeting at noon on Saturday. Your participation is needed to help host the SITS; sign up with K8MR to help out. The Saturday meeting is important so that your voice can be heard in the process of club business. We hope to see everyone there.

2007 Michigan QSO Party K8MQP Operation From Cheboygan County

By Dave Pruett, K8CC

For the past three years, a diverse group of MRRC members have traveled north to Michigan's Cheboygan County to operate the Michigan QSO Party from KN8S's QTH. In 2005 the QTH was a residence on a suburban-style lot on a canal off of Burt Lake near Indian River, but in 2006 the group moved to a new 10 acre location on the shores of Silver Lake, near Afton, MI. For 2007, the group returned to the Silver Lake location, but with more operators and hardware in their quest to be the top MiQP multi-multi entry. The photo at left shows the view from the back of the home overlooking the lake.

The objective of the K8MQP effort was to compete in the MiQP multi-operator, multi-transmitter category as we did in 2006. That year, we only had five operators for four stations, so our goal was to have a minimum of six operators this time. Dave/K8CC, Ken/W8MJ, John/KN8S and fellow outdoorsman Tim/KE8OC returned from 2006. Mike/WD8S joined the team for the first time, and Uli/KK8I was able to participate after a conflicting business trip fell through at the last minute. This gave us our six operators, but John also invited his brother-in-law, Jerry/KD8EGH and Jerry's son Scott/KD8EGJ to join the team. Jerry and Scott are relatively new hams, but both made valuable contributions to the effort.

The trip began the Friday morning before the MiQP, when W8MJ, WD8S and K8CC (in K8CC's Jeep) and KE8OC along with wife Nancy (in the KE8OC Ford F-150) headed north for Cheboygan County. The K8CC Jeep was towing a trailer carrying a 48' aluminum tilt-up tower, while the KE8OC pickup was towing K8BB's trailer carrying a 56' aluminum tilt-up tower. Both vehicles were loaded with radios, amplifiers, computers, operating tables and the myriad of necessary radio accessories. Late Friday afternoon, KK8I started north with his Passat wagon also full of radio gear and traveling in caravan with the K8BB/N8NM mobile team.

The K8CC and KE8OC vehicles arrived at Silver Lake around 2:30 PM. The available space around the house which was clear of trees was carefully considered, and the position of the towers was dictated largely by the need for the yagi elements to clear the nearby tall trees as the tower was cranked up (see picture at left). Also, the available space required that each be erected separately because the two towers overlapped when tilted down.

(Continued on page 8)

K8MQP From Cheboygan County (continued)

A HyGain 153BA (3L 15 monobander) and a 3L CB beam (converted to 10M) with rotator were mounted on the K8CC 48' tower which was positioned in front of the KN8S QTH garage. Rotator and coax cables were run down a tower leg and taped, then the tower was quickly cranked up (thanks for the electric winch powered from the Jeep's battery). Some manipulation of the rotator heading was required to orient the elements in the best manner to clear adjacent trees and branches. By 4:00 PM the tower was fully upright with its guy wires in place and operation of the 10M and 15M yagis had been verified with an SWR analyzer.

Work quickly got underway to erect the 56' tower, which would carry a HyGain 203BA (3L 20 monobander). The plan behind this arrangement was to allow the 20M operator to position his yagi independently of 15/10, as 20 was likely to have solid skip to the west and southeast, while 15 and 10 would likely only provide scatter QSOs. Again, clearance to trees was a factor and the base of the tower was positioned in the driveway in front of the front door of the house.

The picture at the right shows W8MJ and KD8EGH positioning the 3L 20 on the mast of the 56' tower before the tower was raised with WD8S, KD8EGJ and KN8S lending assistance. Take note of the rocks surrounding the base of the tree in the right of the picture which are the same rocks and tree in the picture above showing the first tower going up, which gives some sense of how close the towers were together. Also note the density of the woods immediately behind where the work is going on. The trees on the property are very tall (estimated to approach 100') which is great for supporting wire antennas but a hinderance for raising (and rotating) yagis.

Once the beam was mounted, the second tower was raised (see the picture at left) which ultimately made it to the full upright position, but not without incident. As the tower approached vertical, one of the antenna crew (who shall remain nameless) attempted to help the process along by using the vertical pipe carrying the lifting cable (visible in the photograph) as a lever. However, this pipe is not unintended to take side loading and snapped off where the threaded end screwed into a fitting welded to the tower base just as it arrived at vertical. Fortunately, KD8EGH (a plumber by trade) was able to extract the broken off pipe end from the fitting with a hacksaw. KN8S took the pipe into town to have the local plumbing shop rethread the end, the pipe was threaded back into the fitting, and the repair was complete.

Another problem became apparent once the tower was vertical and we attempted to rotate the 20M yagi. The tower and beam were too

(Continued on page 9)

K8MQP From Cheboygan County (continued)

close to a nearby tree (barely visible at the top left in the photo of the tower going up) which snagged the yagi reflector element enough to prevent rotation. After agonizing over the problem for several minutes, we disconnected the side stabilizing outriggers and while two people held each guy wire, KE8OC simply backed up the trailer (with the tower and beam vertical!) the five feet required to clear the tree. Talk about a big mobile antenna - it's pretty incredible to watch a 60' tall tower moving horizontally over the ground!

The end result of all of this work was that by 5:00 PM, both towers were in the air and all of the beams functional. Our next tasks were to erect the wire antennas. John has a 160/80/40 parallel dipole antenna permanently installed at the QTH. We folded back the 40M wires and used the antenna for 80 and 75 meters. The final two wire antennas were separate inverted-vees for 40 CW and SSB, installed down near the lake. Several years ago, an overhead power line had been relocated underground, which left behind a clear path through the woods, perhaps a hundred feet wide and broadside south-southeast. This open area allowed us to position the CW and SSB inverted vees approximately 50' high and end-to-end about 200' apart, providing enough isolation that the 40M receivers are not bothered by the RF coming from the 1.5 KW transmitter on the "other" mode. KN8S's "EZ-Hang" was used to shoot fishing line over tree branches, then green "Wire Man" antenna rope was pulled up to support the antennas.

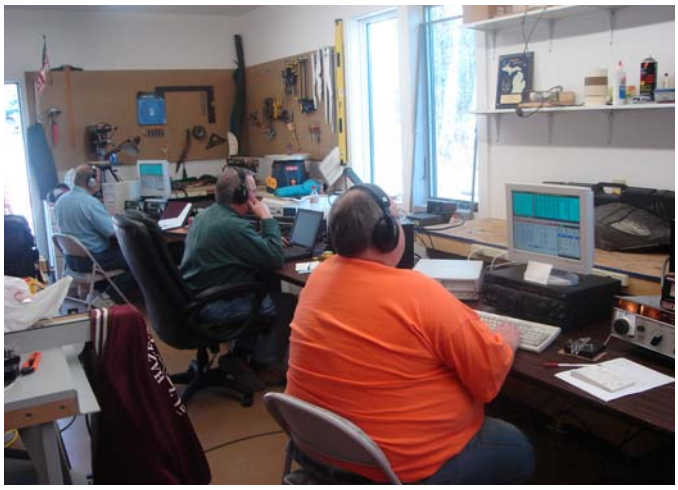
Overall View Of the K8MQP Antenna Farm

All the wire antenna work was complete, with coaxes run and SWR checks complete, by 8:00 PM, so the antenna crew broke for the drive into town and dinner at a excellent Italian restaurant in Indian River. Around 10:00 PM, KK8I and the N8N mobile team (K8BB and N8NM) arrived and we talked them in through a combination of VHF FM and cel phones. (Not many GSM cel services in northern Michigan). We regaled them with tales of our adventures of the day while the evening was spent setting up the inside stations and equipment. Most of the gear was in place and hooked up by midnight so the team hit the sack.

(Continued on page 10)

K8MQP From Cheboygan County (continued)

Station Arrangement and Setup



One of the great advantages of the KN8S QTH is that John has a large, heated workshop located adjacent to his garage, which when cleared of his woodworking and archery tools can be turned into a comfortable multi-station ham shack with good access to the outside to route coax cables. It's also away from the other living areas of the house which avoids disturbing other family members. After struggling with a haywire 220 VAC wiring lash-up to power the amplifiers in 2006, this year John fabricated a custom power distribution cord out of 10 gauge cable providing plenty of 220 VAC to each operating position. The photo of the shack at left shows (back to front) KN8S on 40 CW, KE8OC on 40 SSB, and WD8S on 20. The 80/15/10 station is located to the right behind the camera.

We learned from experience with separate CW and SSB rigs on 40 in 2006 that most modern radios emit a broad spectrum of in-band phase noise whenever the radio is in transmit which severely interferes with the other radio sharing the band. This caused us to search for older, yet contest-grade radios for the two 40 meter positions. On CW, we again deployed K8CC's 1970s-vintage Drake C-Line which we used successfully in 2006 along with another 70s artifact - a Dentron MLA-2500 borrowed from K9TM (see photo at left with KN8S at the key). An ICE single-band 40 bandpass filter provided isolation from the other bands. The computer was "borrowed" from the K8CC multi-multi ham shack at the last minute as two other PCs checked out DOA the night before the trip. The 40 CW antenna was the inverted-vee described earlier, and broadside roughly south-southeast. During the weekend, the antenna did not seem to play very well out to the western areas, a condition aggravated by high QRN levels on the band, although local geography may also have been a factor. However, the station never experienced any problems with QRM from the 40 SSB station, so in that sense the setup was a success. Dave/K8CC and John KN8S were the 40 CW operators.

For 40 SSB we had to go looking for an appropriate, contest-grade radio to avoid our phase noise problems of the previous year. Our prior experience with the FT-1000MP and IC-756ProIII from 2006 had proven these radios to be "phase-noisy" in-band, which proved to be a significant problem for the operator on 40CW. Based on some comments from W8JI's web site, K8CC decided to test an IC-751A owned by W8MJ, but saw similar problems. An old Yaesu FT-107M owned by K8CC (but which has been on loan to his relatively inactive friend WR8W) owned proved to be totally clean on transmit, but the radio had other operational problems due to a decade or more of disuse. While discussing the problem with the team while planning our trip, we discovered that Mike/WD8S owned a Ten-Tec Corsair I transceiver which is an older non-synthesized radio. Testing by K8CC verified that Mike's Corsair did not exhibit phase noise on transmit. With some R&R through the application of contact lubricant to resolve some noisy controls, we had our rig for 40 SSB.

(Continued on page 11)

K8MQP From Cheboygan County (continued)

The 40 SSB position is shown in the photo at left with KE8OC at the mic. He's logging on a laptop he provided, while the Corsair with its power supply and W8MJ's AL-1200 amplifier and K8CC's MFJ-432 voice keyer sitting atop the Corsair are clearly seen. Again, an ICE single-band 40 bandpass filter provided isolation from the other bands. One odd problem we had with this laptop (both in 2006 and 2007) was that it would lock up from RF getting into it when run off the AC power brick, but no problem if we ran it off the DC power adapter from the 12V power supply seen on the shelf behind the rig. The antenna was a 50' high inverted vee described earlier and the isolation from 40 CW was sufficient to prevent major problems to the Corsair's receiver. Tim did most of the 40 SSB operating, but WD8S and KD8EGH also spent time in the chair.

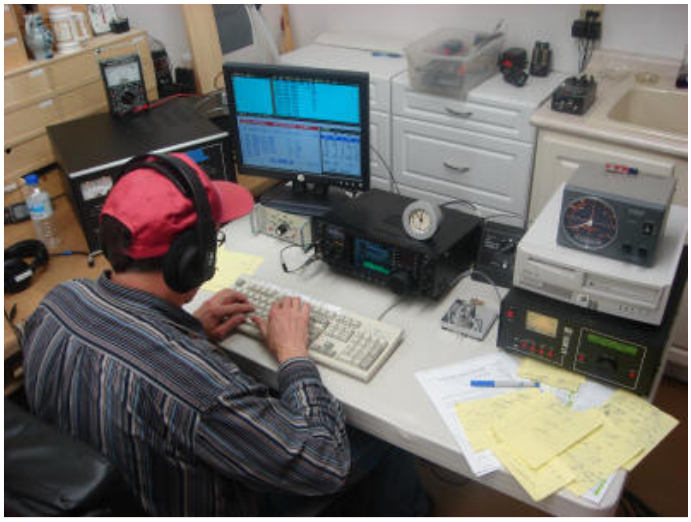
Compared with the challenges of getting two rigs to function optimally on the same band, our other two stations proved to be relatively straightforward. Our 20M station covered both CW and SSB, and utilized KK8I's FT-1000MP which posed a couple of twists. First, Uli had purchased some optional filters for the radio from another ham, which had arrived the day of the trip north. So, once he arrived on the Friday night before the contest, the radio was popped open and installation of the new filters was undertaken with some kibitzing from K8CC. The second twist was that Uli had never used his FT-1000MP with an amplifier before so there was some uncertainty about the amp relay keying, but the concerns were unfounded and the radio functioned flawlessly.

The photo at the right shows our 20M position with Uli at the controls. K8CC's Ten-Tec Titan amplifier provided boost to the MP's signal, while an ICE single-band 20 bandpass filter provided isolation from the other bands. QSOs were logged on the on the small Acer desktop in the left of the picture along with a 15" flat screen monitor, and the computer was equipped with a W9XT Contest Card which provided voice keyer functionality. The rotator control for the 3L 20 can be seen on top of the Titan. Uli made most of the 20M QSOs, but WD8S also spent time in the operating chair. This position made the most QSOs of any of the stations, largely because of the seemingly endless supply of new amateurs on SSB.

Our fourth position covered 80M, 15M, and 10M, both CW and SSB. For this station we took advantage of the equipment from the KN8S station that was on site. Seen in the photo on the next page with W8MJ at the keyboard, the rig is KN8S's IC-756ProIII driving the KN8S AL-1200 amplifier through W8MJ's IC-419 multi-band bandpass filter. The Alpha-Delta coax switch (seen to the right of the transceiver in the photo at right) selected either of the 15M or 10M yagis, or the 80M dipole through the Palstar automatic antenna tuner (the black box at the right end of the desk). QSOs were logged on another Acer desktop computer with a 17" flat panel monitor "borrowed" from John's wife's computer, and equipped with a Contest Card for voice keying. Sitting atop the computer is the Yaesu rotator control for rotating the 15M and 10M yagis. W8MJ made most of the QSOs at this station, with help from WD8S and KD8EGH.

(Continued on page 12)

K8MQP From Cheboygan County (continued)



This station setup posed several challenges. First, the 12V power supply for the transceiver for some reason would not put out power. We're not sure we ever found the problem, but the supply eventually began working. The second problem involved the Palstar automatic antenna tuner, which was used to match the 80M dipole on both CW and phone. It accomplished that task admirably, but when operating on 15M and 10M on the yagis it would try to tune the 80M antenna to that band as well. Getting around this unwanted behavior required deactivating the tuner through a series of button presses, and in certain scenarios putting the amp in standby as well. None of this prevented QSOs, it just made the bandswitching process a lot more complicated and offset the advantage of the automatic tuner.

At the start the contest, 40 CW hit the ground running with a 70 hour while the SSB team struggled with RF problems transmit audio until the voice keyer was grounded to the radio. Despite the poor in-state propagation on 40 meters, we managed roughly 100 more QSOs per mode than last year, which is still much less than we expect the band is capable of when good in-state propagation returns. 20 SSB had a terrific first hour with 116 - a lot of seemingly new callsigns. 80/75 meters started producing as early as the 17Z hour, and a lot of these were in-state QSOs which bolstered the multiplier totals. In the end, 15 and 10 were pretty much a waste of time with a total of five QSOs between the two bands and both modes, which is very discouraging given the mount of effort spent to bring the second tower. 20M was up roughly 100 QSOs as well, largely due to SSB being a bottomless pit of QSOs. It was impressive to be able to make QSOs on 20M every hour of the contest. 80M was a big improvement, with roughly 200 more QSOs, thanks largely to the increased early daytime activity.

Our current claimed score is 1715 QSOs and 221 multipliers, for 529,737 points. We are quite pleased with the results, which is the first time a MiQP score has exceeded a half-million points. This score puts us neck-and-neck with our cohorts over at the K8XXX multi-multi, who also broke the half-million mark. K8XXX has more QSOs but we have more multipliers and a higher ratio of two-point CW to one-point SSB QSOs. It appears the winner will be the team who best survives the logchecking process.

Sunday morning, after a great breakfast provided by Linda Sullivan, the K8MQP crew gathered for the group photo around the base of the 56' tower in front of the KN8S homestead (see right). Everything was taken down and the vehicles re-packed for the trip home in about three hours. Before departing, we were taken on a tour of the KN8S hunting preserve in the woods.

The team would like to thank Linda Sullivan, for allowing us to invade her home once again for our MiQP effort. Thanks also go to Nancy Sullivan, who provided encouragement and helped keep us fed in fine style.

K8MQP Operating Team
Front (L to R):
KK8I, KD8EGJ, W8MJ, KN8S, WD8S & KD8EGH
Back (L to R): K8CC and KE8OC