

# THE BLACK HOLE



ARRL SS Unlimited Team Champs 2000, 2001, 2002

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## Band-Waggin' from the Fringes of Oblivion—ILQP 2003

By Jim Funk, N9JF

Preparation for the Illinois QSO Party presents new challenges each year. The flurry of e-mails that began on the ILQP reflector in August grew to a flood during the last two weeks before the contest, as potential fixed stations, mobiles and portables, from both inside and outside Illinois, made their plans. Now that we knew we could actually put all 102 Illinois counties on the air during an eight-hour period (accomplished in 2003), the challenge was to repeat this during the 2004 event. Mobiles from outside the state were a big factor in the planning again: W3DYA from Texas, NY4N from Tennessee, and KM9X, KJ9C, and KE9I from Indiana. The trick was to fine-tune the coverage so that October 17 didn't see four mobiles in all the counties surrounding, say, Clinton, and NO ONE actually IN Clinton!!

With routes being change up until the last few hours, there was no way to know whether or not we were successful until after the contest was completed and the log reports began to come in....

One of the "rites of passage" (they might say "penances") my kids undergo has been to drive for me in the Illinois QSO Party.

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## SS 2006

By Pat Barkey, N9RV

We are "the" SS club, so its only right to start talking now and getting organized.

As Phil, KB9CRY, has so eloquently said, it will take more than big talk on this reflector to make it happen. I agree with everything that's been said on here. Let's "do it all".

Let's talk about SS with the local and/or DX clubs that we are members of or are familiar with. Tell them the story of SMC (they probably know it already) and tell them that we are rising from the ashes.

Talk to local guys who know CW and/or are active on HF and willing to pitch in for a worthy cause. I agree with Chad -- even if they're not in the circle they can help by

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## VHF Column

By Kevin Kaufold, W9GKA

**Summer Activities.** The bands have been alive this summer, with many SMC ops having great adventures. Things started off on May 19, when the Midwest had an enormous 6-meter opening. A few days later on the 24 through 29th, K9GY was down in Nassau, and worked 400 contacts on 6 from a portable location.

The bands really kicked into high gear for the June VHF QSO Party. Many of our ops set "personal best" records in this contest, with tremendous 6-meter openings. For instance, K2DRH not only won the nation in the SOLP, he also shattered the point record, amassing over 500K. WB9Z, N2BJ, and WO9S, all had strong scores. On a special note, K9NS entered their log with the club this time, really boosting our club aggregate. Many others also had great experiences, as well. In all, the SMC probably will have the most log entries of any club in the nation, at 36, and may come in 2nd in the club competition, behind PVRC, with some 3 Million points to PVRC's 5 million. To give some

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# The Black Hole



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**EDITOR**  
Brian Maves, K9QQ

Material for **The Black Hole** should be forwarded to:

**k9qq@arrl.net**

Membership in **The Society of Midwest Contesters** is open to all persons with a bona-fied interest in amateur radio contesting. The club doesn't collect annual dues, but instead funds everything through member donations. For more information contact one of the following officers:

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A few years ago, we decided to eliminate formal dues of \$10 per year, and instead, maintain funds through member donations. We encourage all members to consider making an annual donation to the club. Your generous donations allow us to continue to expand our support of radio sporting.

You can make your donation two ways:

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## AK9F in INQP

By AK9F, Howard Dybedock

Well, it was a lot of fun again this year, but somewhat different with the rules change and all the other contest activity. I think the other activity probably made for more contacts, but made finding Indiana stations more difficult.

Thanks to all the SMC members that took the time to get involved and make some contacts....especially since the SMC has quite a few members in Indiana. The sponsoring club, the Hoosier DX and Contest Club <www.hdxcc.org> really pushed this year to activate all 92 Indiana counties, and have some really nice certificates and plaques for the winning participants. Check their excellent site for details and results.

Don (K9NR) and I operated again this year at my farm in the hills and woods of Perry County, on the far southwestern corner of the Hoosier Nation Forest. There are plenty of deer and turkeys, but not too many people and very few hams! In fact, I believe there have only been two years when we worked a station in our own county, and both times were when Mel, KJ9C, was passing through on I-64.

The antennas are a 40-meter dipole at 40 feet, and for all the other bands a 135-foot flattop at 65 feet fed with balanced line and a tuner. That way we could retune for 20 or 80 while operating 40, then switch bands quickly.

The rig was an older Icom 746 with good crystal filters and logging with WriteLog.

The contest got off to a fairly slow start, so we went to 20 meters to work some of the out-of-staters, and even had a brief run of Europeans call us.

As the afternoon progressed, 40 meters picked up and we started working Indiana stations. Things really got hot and for a short period in the evening when we had the rate-meter up to nearly 200/hr on phone and 100+ on CW. Late in the contest, we moved to 80 to pick up half a hundred contacts or so on CW. 75 phone was zero effort and zero contacts.

Further competition for spectrum was the ARI RTTY contest which created a lot of racket on the 40 CW frequencies. In fact, after the 0400Z close of the INQP, I switched to RTTY and worked a dozen or so in the ARI group.

I'm not sure about the impact of all that contest activity at the same time as the INQP, but we worked less Indiana counties this year than in 2005.

Conditions seemed to be pretty good and most of the Indiana stations had decent signals, so I'm not sure whether all that other activity detracted or there were just fewer counties

on the air this year. I guess an analysis of the logs as they come in will help answer that.

Here's hoping this contest continues to get better each year and that the SMC affords the same support to Indiana that we give the ILQP and the WIQP.

I really appreciate those mobiles that went out and knocked themselves out, especially considering the \$3 a gallon gas!

73,

Howard AK9F

Don K9NR

Call Used: AK9F County: PERRY

Operators: AK9F and K9NR

Entry Class: Multi Operator - Low Power

BAND CW PH MULTS

160	0	0	0
80	53	0	2
40	191	215	119
20	17	27	15
15	0	0	0
<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	261	242	136

Claimed Score : 103904



## KS9Z/0: Grid DXpedition to EN209F in INQP

By KX9X, Sean Kutzko

The Story: This was to be our first Grid DXpedition in 4 years. We made a conscious decision to get back into things slowly, so we decided to use smaller beams on the high bands, reducing the amount of packing we had to do, and left the kilowatts at home in favor of simple bricks. We also only went out for essentially 3 days of operating.

Friday June 9:

Hit the road at 4:30am from EM59. Arrived at the KOA in Rock Port, MO in EN20 around 11 or so. Our hosts, Annette and Dave, were delighted to see us and couldn't have been nicer. They made us feel very welcome and showed us to the small cabin we've grown accustomed to renting on these trips: 12' x 12', 1 double bed (which served as the op

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Somehow, Andrea (KB9CEQ) missed her opportunity (??) to do this...but I'll forgive her since she has produced two darling granddaughters instead...but I digress.... This year, N9MTX took the wheel again and ably navigated and negotiated the 300+ mile route, in the process avoiding being hit by some idiot that passed us on a hill in Monroe County and nearly hit an oncoming car head-on...but I digress again.... Darren had the additional challenge of sitting through two versions of the sermon I delivered at Camden and Clayton before we were able to embark on our ILQP route! He didn't yawn once, for which I was grateful....

Due to the Sunday morning obligations, we began our route much further north than in the past, specifically, on the Greene/Scott line near Hillview. From there, we headed south and then west across the Illinois River at Hardin into Calhoun County and into the convenient parking lot at Calhoun High School. While I was in the middle of a roaring pileup on 20 CW, the local constabulary arrived. "You're in charge of P.R.," I informed him, so Darren proceeded to explain just what the heck it was we were doing to the Hardin town cop. After the explanation, he sat there quite awhile and finally remarked, "You know, my dad was a ham...." "Oh, really, what was his call?" "K9DDQ". "In Batchtown?" "Yes, you remember him?" K9DDQ was one of the regulars on 75 meter AM back in the mid-60's, when I was a high school kid and the old-timers nevertheless allowed me to participate in their Saturday morning roundtables. Talk about a blast from the past!!!

From Calhoun, it was back to Illinois 16 and waaaaay east to the town of Oconee. Route 16 has improved a lot since the days when there were bumper stickers that read, "Please Pray for Me...I Drive Illinois Route 16!!". With each county, the activity increased. The Europeans who had been present in the early counties began to fade, however. Fifteen meters seemed dead, despite the attempts I made to move stations to that band. Twenty CW was great; but the twenty meter antenna was set for CW, and forays to twenty SSB didn't result in any contacts at all. Fortunately, the extra antenna for forty SSB worked fine, and we were able to pick up several Illinois counties on that band that would otherwise have been missed. It was extremely frustrating, however, to hear Illinois mobiles on both CW and SSB who could simply \*NOT\* hear us. It was one thing to sit in the pileup and another to have them CQ "in my face". Sigh....

Monroe County was one of our "assignments", and there is no easy way get there. We elected to avoid the St. Louis metro area and went south through Nashville (Washington Co.) and then west to get to the Monroe/Randolph line. By the time we left that spot, only forty-five minutes remained

until the end of the contest. Abandoning our original planned route, we headed north into St. Clair County, hoping to reach Madison before the 0200Z. We missed it by two minutes. Fortunately, at least one other station had activated Madison earlier in the day.

Along the way, we heard several WIARC members. KN0E called on the phone just prior to the start of the contest to let me know his computer was working (YAAAAAY!!!). We talked briefly on 40 SSB; then I never heard them during the entire contest, nor did I work either Hancock or Schuyler County!!!! N9DT and WB9EWM braved the slick footing and once again activated the Adams/Brown/Pike corner (my only contacts with ANY of those counties!). W9FGH and side-kick K8IR made a tremendous amount of noise from the Greene/Jersey/Macoupin corner. Many of the submitted logs show contacts with AB9DU/P, NA9DM and N9UPG.

My guess is that Green River Valley ARC "smoked" us. They were out in force from several counties and really did a great job. The final results will tell the whole story, but it's likely we'll have to "wait 'til next year" and make another stab at taking back "our" plaque....

If you made even a few contacts, send in your log!! Electronic logs may be sent to me at [jfunk@fossnorthamerica.com](mailto:jfunk@fossnorthamerica.com). If you logged on paper but want to send the log electronically, e-mail me and we'll come up with a way to do it.

Thanks for all the efforts that went into this year's contest.



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working us and helping to create a bigger "buzz."

Start thinking about your station and your schedule right now so you can be in the best possible shape. Don't get out very well on 40? Come up with a plan now to improve and it will all help come November.

The multi-operator and/or guest operator idea is OK. If guys who don't operate one mode (or don't operate it very well) open up their shacks to guys that do, that's a huge plus for the club.

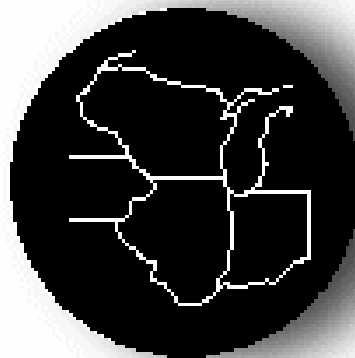
And if you're really dedicated (and believe me, the NCCC guys are) you can host multiple single op's from one station using different calls -- just don't share the same radios. That's the rule, like it or not, and perhaps we should think about doing it where it makes sense (like at a multi-tower station?). It would make more points than either a single op or a multi-op by itself.

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We will need some guys to "inventory" the efforts people are planning, so we can see where we stand and who's left that might be persuaded to operate or open their station. OK, maybe we won't call them "pledges" this year -- some of you didn't like that. But if you are a member of SMC, you can be expected to be asked to operate SS, because that's what SMC is.

Let's keep it going and go SMC!



## From Tim Gardner, N9LF, rover activity in the 2004/05 INQP



This is the vertical antenna we used. An SGC tuner is at the base and radials are spread across the grass, road and empty corn field.



Here again is W9TN, this time set up as a portable station at a three-county corner. Note the unique sun shield around the logging computer.



This is Steve, W9TN, operating CW while temporarily parked in a cemetery. Steve is in the rear seat of my Explorer, operating a Icom 756Pro.

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perspective on how strong of an event this was, SMC VHF ops have accumulated some 10 Million in club points between 1995 and January, 2006. This one contest generated 3 Million additional points by club members! These numbers do not even include several big showings by our ops beyond the circle, including K9JS operating in northern climates as W9LAS, posting 71K; and Pete, K9PW, operating once again at K3EAR, producing 849K in the SOHP. Pete should come in either 1st or 2nd in the high power class, nationally.

We keep improving every year in June, with greater scores from existing ops, and most importantly, more log entries. This shows not only great station and operator abilities, but tremendous depth from our membership, as well. We have gone from 24 ops as recently as 2003 to 36 ops this year submitting VHF logs with the club.

6-meters stayed open through July, with the CQ VHF having tremendous 6-meter openings on both days. While not a club event, many of our ops participated in this contest, with its unique 6 and 2 only format. AA9D said the E skip openings were the strongest he ever has experienced. That is a big statement by itself, since Dave has had major contest efforts since sometime in the 1980's. Bob, K2DRH, noted the opening to be the strongest and most intense that he has ever been in, too. KE9I and AJ9C worked into Europe either during or immediately before the contest. There was also 2-meter Es to the east coast from many parts of the Midwest, and 2 meter tropo was strong on the Saturday evening of the contest. At least 14 ops from the club ran in the contest, with some having great scores. K9GY, KE9I, W9IIX all had over 50K in points. Bob, K2DRH made over 1,600 contacts, and putting in 708K in points. And imagine, this is with only 2 bands! Not many stations have ever gone over 1,000 contacts in any VHF contest, in any category. For Bob to hit 1,600 is an amazing feat.

The bands stayed wide open through the week after the CQ VHF contest, with WO9S listening in on a 6-meter opening into Europe on July 18, 2006.

At least three of our ops participated in the August UHF. W9SZ, WO9S, and W9IIX all posted scores in the event. Zack noted that he could hear some rovers to his north, but could not get their attention. No doubt, they were part of the NLRs's Rovermania III efforts. Northern Light's activities have been a real boost to this contest.

Also, W9SZ operated the 10 GHz and above contest from the Lake Michigan area, I think.

The VHF Activity Lists. I have been compiling a cumulative list of all VHF contests that SMC ops have participated in over the years. Many club members have supplied information on their past contest adventures. Thanks for all of

the information. The list now includes all ARRL VHF club competition events in which SMC had three or more operators. The list goes back to 1995 and is fairly complete, with the exception that some data is missing between 2000 and 2001. The League did not put its on-line data-base together until 2002, and there were too many SMC ops operating in 2000 and 2001 to mathematically conclude who actually submitted scores in those two years. So, the following lists include only the last 4 plus years of SMC club activity on VHF. It is probably good to cut off the list at 5 years anyway, as that more readily shows current capabilities of club members.

The first list shows the "work effort" of club members, sorting by the number of VHF contests the members have participated in since January 2002. The small pistols have a real shot to be on this list, as log entries with even just a few points will still constitute a submission on behalf of the SMC. I have cut the list off of the top 20 ops, but there have been 92 ops in the last 4 plus years that have either submitted entries or have been ops at multis and rovers that have then submitted with the SMC. The call-signs with zero points are the various ops at the multis as well as the

VHF Work Effort List, 1-2002 thru 1-2006			
Sort by contests, then by points			
Call	Contests	TTL Pts	Rank
N2BJ	12	971,317	1
K2DRH	11	2,069,823	2
WA1MKE	11	286,498	3
WB9Z	10	1,440,188	4
W9RVG	10	440,175	5
W9GKA	9	54,296	6
W9SE	9	26,131	7
K9IJ	9	9,712	8
WD9EXD	9	0	9
WO9S	8	186,576	10
K2PAC	7	0	11
N9TF	6	95,244	12
W9SZ	6	12,942	13
K9TMS	6	5,916	14
N9REP	6	0	15
WD9EMF	6	0	16
K9RN	5	418,383	17
K9JK	5	169,770	18
NV8V	5	89,127	19
KG9IL	5	69,867	20

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2nd ops in the rovers. I have credited these ops for each contest that they operate in. I also give a credit to the primary call-sign of multis and rovers for each contest worked as well as assigning the primary call-sign the log entry points. There were 12 VHF club contests in the relevant time period. Barry, N2BJ, competed in all 12 contests with the SMC! That is an accomplishment by itself.

The next list shows the same time period, sorted by points. This shows who is currently providing the big points in the club competition event. Again, I am showing only the top 20, but there have been over 9 Million points scored by SMC members during the last four plus years. Note the enormous contribution to the club made by those at the top of the list. 5.6 Million points were made by just the top four stations on the list, and another 1.9 Million points were made by the next 6 people.

VHF Point List, 1-2002 thru 1-2006			
Sort by points			
Call	Contests	TTL Pts	Rank
K2DRH	11	2,069,823	1
WB9Z	10	1,440,188	2
K9NS	2	1,375,468	3
N2BJ	12	971,317	4
W9RVG	10	440,175	5
K9RN	5	418,383	6
N9UM	4	362,295	7
WA1MKE	11	286,498	8
K9ILT	4	221,173	9
K0PG	4	219,946	10
KF9US	3	211,830	11
WO9S	8	186,576	12
K9JK	5	169,770	13
NG9R	4	99,173	14
N9TF	6	95,244	15
NV8V	5	89,127	16
KG9IL	5	69,867	17
N9GH	4	68,614	18
W9XA	3	67,498	19
K9ZO	5	56,456	20

These two lists do not include activity from June, 2006, as the final results will not be available for several months. The two lists can be combined to form a single estimate of overall contribution to the club, as shown in the following list. The combined list can be run for all 92 VHF ops over the last 4 plus years, but I have once again cut it off at the top 20, primarily to save space. While the list concentrates on VHF, a similar list can be put together for HF activities

of the club. If anyone wants, I can send a more detailed description of the exact data that I include and exclude and the statistical procedure I use in the development of these lists. I do not have the energy or time to generate a SMC list for HF, but can certainly show someone else how I did this for VHF.

SMC Current VHF Ranking, 1-02 thru 1-06				
Sort by Ave Rank, then by Pts				
Call	Rank, tests	Rank, Pts	Average	Rank
K2DRH	2	1	1.5	1
N2BJ	1	4	2.5	2
WB9Z	4	2	3.0	3
W9RVG	5	5	5.0	4
WA1MKE	3	8	5.5	5
WO9S	10	12	11.0	6
K9RN	17	6	11.5	7
N9TF	12	15	13.5	8
W9GKA	6	21	13.5	9
K9JK	18	13	15.5	10
W9SE	7	24	15.5	11
N9UM	25	7	16.0	12
K9ILT	26	9	17.5	13
NV8V	19	16	17.5	14
K0PG	27	10	18.5	15
KG9IL	20	17	18.5	16
K9ZO	21	20	20.5	17
NG9R	28	14	21.0	18
K9IJ	8	34	21.0	19
W9SZ	13	30	21.5	20

In generating the above Rankings list, I have equally weighted the work effort list (for the little guys) and point list (for the big boys). That is pretty much how I see VHF activities of the club, as an equal combination of contest activity and contest club points. Yes, it takes the big guns to boost our club aggregate, but it also takes hordes of club members to increase our club depth. It takes both to be a great club. Paul Gentry paved the way on this a few years ago in the HF Sweeps. I am just taking Paul's philosophy of big guns combined with the masses, and quantifying it for the club's VHF efforts. If we keep building our station abilities as well as the depth of our club VHF activities, we not only will be a great club, we can be the only in the club in the nation to ever make the unlimited club entry in both HF and VHF contests.

This should be our goal over the next several years – to take back the gavel on HF, and to win the unlimited gavel on VHF! Hope to work you on the bands.

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table), and 2 sub-twin size bunk beds. It was out of the elements, had air conditioning and electricity; all we could have asked for.

Started setting up upon arrival. It was hot; 91 degrees, bright sunshine, no shade. We took several breaks while getting the antennas up. By late afternoon, we had 6m and 2m up and running. Matt fired up some brats on the grill and I started working 6m. First QSO was WA7FPO in DM54 around 2200z

When Matt broke out his laptop to check his email, we found no nodes to hit. We were told the site had wireless internet, so he asked if there was a problem. Indeed there was; it hadn't been working for a couple days and there wouldn't be a tech out to look at it until Monday! This put a



**Sean, KX9X, working the 6m pileups on Saturday.**

MAJOR crimp in our plans. We were hoping to be able to check the prop loggers for info on band openings, and I had made a sked with one ham who needed EN20 on 6m badly. I didn't write any of the info down, since I figured I'd just get it from his email. Big mistake, one that cost a ham a grid, and I'll never do that again.

Worked a handful of stations to the southeast around EM73. It was early, but we were tired and dehydrated, so we ended up going to bed around 10pm or so.

**Saturday June 10**

Got up around 8am. Had breakfast & set to work getting the 222 and 432 mast up. I worked 6m in between measurements and worked a few folks that way. Antennas assembled easily. 220 sounded great, but 432 didn't. Realized we forgot the SWR analyzer AND the SWR meter in our early-am rush out the door. BIG BUMMER.

"You didn't pack that, man?"

"No, man, I thought YOU packed it!"

"Aw, crap."

Matt set out to figure out what was up with the UHF bands while I worked 6m. Great opening Saturday morning to the east and southeast (FM29, EM84, FN10, etc).

By contest time, we had taken the 432 beam apart and re-adjusted it. It sure sounded better, but we had no way of checking SWR. By the time the contest started, I'd put in about 75 Q's on 6m.

**CQ Contest!**

6m started off with a BANG, working huge openings and big pileups into a single-hop radius to MD, DEL, PA, MI, and OH. Worked 88 Q's in the first hour. The band was cooking and cooking HARD.

Matt made a Q with NOWL in EN21 on 2m. He said we were weak. Uh-oh. We tried 432 with him, but he never heard us and we never heard him. Uh-oh.

I kept working guys up and down the east coast, and every now and then, I'd work somebody out west off the back of the beam. Prop stretched up into New England around 2200z, then got short again around 2315z. Around 0200z, worked several stations out west in Colorado and New Mexico. Matt tried to work guys on 2m, but was not successful. We heard NOWL talk about the sporadic E he was working out to the east, but we never heard it at all. 6m folded for us around 0300z, and I had 273 Q's in the log on 6m. One of my best 6m days ever. 2m - 432 was toast, and Matt couldn't determine why.

**Sunday June 11**

Woke up around 7:30am. First Q on 6m was FN03 at 1406z. about 30 minutes later, I worked KODI in DM04, so I swung the 6m beam west; it stayed that direction almost all day. the desert southwest was the vast majority of QSO's I worked on Sunday, with the occasional Q into EL29 or DN71. Matt was without an operational station on 2m-432, and had no internet, so he tried in vain to get the bugs worked out. He did work some 6m stuff on Sunday, but for the most part, Matt unsuccessfully spent most of his time trying to get the UHF stuff going.

Worked some real close-in stations around 1700z, including EN52 and EN50 & 61 (home ground of our beloved Society of Midwest Contesters). Swung the beam back west around 1930z, and it stayed there the rest of the afternoon.

By 6:45pm, the KOA was getting full. As I was working K2DRH on 6m CW, I looked out the window of our cabin, directly into the front window of an RV parked right across from us. I could see the elderly lady fiddling with the TV, watching the picture get completely distorted in perfect unison with my CW. When I transferred K2DRH over to Matt (who did work him on 2m), Matt's SSB signal on 2m

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# June VHF 2006 Wrapup

By Kevin Kaufold, W9GKA

The June VHF contest began with a bang this year. A 6 meter pipeline ran directly to the east coast starting at 7:00 AM the morning of the contest, and continued for 3 hours into the contest. FNxx's were everywhere. Some of the VE grid squares I have never worked before (FN 76; FN85!). I had to go up to 50.262 to even find a clear frequency. When I called CQ, I was inundated with calls. Later in the afternoon, the east coast dropped out, and things swung around to the west. I suspect the 7's and 0's were in there all the time, but until the east coast opening tapered off, I had no chance of hearing them over the din of 1's and 2's. Things were getting pretty spotty by early evening on Saturday, with short skip occurring. Then the lightning came in. I shut down the station at 8 PM, when nearby strikes to the west scared the heebie jeebies out of me. Better safe than sorry. I heard there was activity to the west even after the storm passed through, but I didn't stick around to find out. I also heard that Minnesota had 2 meter Es to the east coast in the late afternoon about the same time 6 was shortening up here. I only experienced poor activity levels on the upper bands as well poor propagation. Scott, KA9FOX did report some 2 meter Es from his Wisconsin location, so the 2 meter Es may have been more widespread than noted on the reflectors.

On Sunday, things were rather scattered on 6. Stations popped in and out throughout the day. In short bursts, I worked VE's and the east coast again, Florida, Cuba, Texas, and then the west by the afternoon. The upper bands continued to be in the doldrums. 222 and 432 were in bad shape, possibly from all the water vapor in the air? I was having trouble even getting into adjoining grids on 432. I never did complete with K9NS in EN52 on either 222 or 432, although I eventually managed EN60, EN61 and EN70 on all 4 VHF bands, as well as closer grids. By the evening on Sunday however, propagation improved considerably on 2 and above. I then worked into Alabama on 2 and 432, Mississippi on 2, and Georgia on 2 and 222. Maybe the unsettling effects of the storm on tropo conditions had worn off by Sunday evening.

Overall, this was a strong contest, ranking right up there with 1992, 2000, and 2003. I had a personal best score (previously set in 1992 some 14 years ago!), and I believe numerous other ops did also. The conditions in 1998 were probably better than this year, as 6 meters was fully open both days and we had clear weather back then. I think that shows how much the ops of the SMC have improved capabilities. Every one of our stations hit home runs this year, even with conditions not being as stellar as other great years.

Now, let's note the big guns of the club. Congratulations to Bob, K2DRH, who easily broke the record in the SOLP class, set by our own K9PW in 2000. Bob had an amazing run of 544,000 points. I thought no one could come close to Bob. The next day, I read that K9MU, running from the incredible tower at W0AIH's QTH, actually had more contacts than Bob, with 1000 + K's on 6 meters alone. The difference appeared to be that Bob ran more VHF and above activity, while still being in all the openings on 6 meters. Jerry, WB9Z, had a tremendous run in the SOHP at 400,000 + points, and this score probably will break the Central Division record for that class (again established by K9PW, in 1999). So far, Jerry is 3rd in the nation among the announced SOHP's. Barry, N2BJ, piled up 235K in points in the Multi unlimited. Breaking the 100K level, Jon, WO9S, did a phenomenal job on digital schedules and 6 meters alike.

The depth of our membership this year was incredible. So many ops came out that I can't keep track of everyone – my apologies if I don't include everyone. K9CT just joined the SMC and yet posted a 98K score with KW amps on 3 bands. Ralph, K9ZO hit 76K. I just read that N9AKR and N9LAH accumulated 70K as a M-L. Scott, KA9FOX, may have run his first VHF contest with the SMC, but still amassed 64K. Chuck, KI9A, made 50,000 points using only 2 bands. Danny, NG9R sent in 47K. W9VA finished with 44K. AJ9C, who said he never has much upper VHF activity in his area, went over 30K. Even QRP portable operations drenched with water from Saturday night's storm ran well. Witness Zack, W9SZ, who ended with 22K. My own run at Lebanon, Ill was overwhelmed by water and terrific thunderstorms, but the generator, power cords, and coaxes strewn about the place all hung in there, giving me a final score of 67K in the SOLP.

My count of SMC cumulative activity on VHF indicates that several new calls joined the SMC VHF ranks this year. In addition to K9CT and KA9FOX, we received entries from AB0RX, W3HDH, N9IJ, and N9IO. There may be others, too, that I do not yet know about. Thank you for the logs, and we are glad to see the increased activity.

The force of SMC members continued beyond the circle, as several members conducted operations in far-flung areas. Sean, KX9X and NM9H, ran a grid DXpedition in western Missouri, EN20. They contended with the same storm that hit us inside the circle, as well as more pedestrian matters – such as no internet service and causing TVI to adjoining KAO camp grounders! Who would have planned on TV's in the middle of nowhere? They managed a 50K score anyway under the call KS9Z. K9JS operated in northland in EN46 as W9LAS, posting 71K. Pete, K9PW, returned to K3EAR in Pa as a single op, and sizzled with a 849K entry in the high power class. He again battled K1TEO in the

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SOHP, and it looks like Pete may be on the way to a 2nd place national finish. Inside our own circle several SMC members ran at K9NS and scored 827K in the M-L, possibly running as a separate local club (although they are most certainly invited to continue with the SMC).

On the activity times, 6 meters was a no-show both days, as band openings kept everyone busy. 2 meters on Saturday produced no takers either, although there may have been people I could not hear over the tremendous static crashes coming from the impending storm. The 2 meter activity time on Sunday was somewhat successful, however. I found two club members at the right frequency through this activity hour, and ran 6 new grids with them. I also heard three other SMC members farther down the band during the designated time, and ran several new contacts and grids with them, too. In the future, I would suggest only 2 meters for an hour in the evenings, and then QSY from there. The general idea would be to have everyone focus on one general time and frequency range, so as to catch up to people missed at other points during contest. Mt. Airy has been doing something like this for many years, but they are more physically compact than we are and have more VHF ops than we do – 50 to 75 regulars.

Comparing our club aggregate to prior years, we should post the greatest club results ever in the June contest. We already have more points than ever before, hovering right at 2 Million, even without everyone being accounted for. 22 members have now submitted scores, and there may be 10 to 18 more club members inside the circle who operated some or all of the contest. If everyone submits an entry, this year's event will certainly produce the most points, and more importantly, the largest number of ops ever to run a VHF contest with the SMC. Congratulations and thank you for the excellent job.

Please remember that the last date to submit an entry to the League is July 12, 2006. Several logs are still outstanding. We especially want the small logs, as that demonstrates the depth and variety of our activity levels. Please get the logs in by deadline.



*(Continued from page 8)*

was doing more damage to our new neighbor's TV than 6m was. I looked out the front door of the cabin, and saw the place was full to capacity; it hadn't been this full all weekend!

We didn't want to cause any problems for our host, so we shut the station down. Our last QSO was K2DRH on 2m at 0048z (Monday AM GMT).

We were still pretty wiped out and a bit frustrated at the lack of success of 2m and up, so we ate dinner and crashed



**Heading home. NM9H stands next to our gear.**

early. Woke up about 7:30am Monday, took everything down and were on the road by 11am.

The folks at the KOA were VERY supportive, and apologized about the lack of internet. A lot of folks had complained about it. We did our best to keep them up to speed on what we were doing, and how things were going. They were genuinely interested. As we were leaving, Annette asked, "When will you be back?" We said maybe in September. I asked if they'd mind other hams operating from there, and they said they'd be delighted to have other hams visit them. So, if anybody wants to activate EN20 any time soon, the KOA in Rock Port, MO would be glad to have you. Email me for details if you're interested.

While the incredible conditions on 6m salvaged the operation, the lack of Q's on 2m and up has left a sour taste in our mouths. Learn from us: More careful planning is required before operating from rare grids. We felt we should have been able to provide EN20 on the higher bands as well, and we didn't do that. Still, for our first venture in several years, we did okay. We will learn from our mistakes and plan accordingly on the next Grid DXpedition.

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

Thanks for the QSO's, everybody.

73, Sean KX9X

Ops: Sean KX9X & Matt, NM9H

6m: 412 Q's 121 grids  
2m: 3 Q's 3 Grids  
222: 0 Q's  
432: 0 QSO's  
Total: 415 Q's 124 grids

Station:

6m: IC-706 mk 2, 100w, Cushcraft 3-el Yagi up 20'  
2m: FT 736R, 2m brick (100w), 5-el homebrew yagi up 20'  
222: FT 736R, 222 brick (100w), Cushcraft 4-el yagi up 17'  
432: FT 736R, 432 brick (100w), M2 11-el yagi up 20'

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## State QSO Parties

### Illinois

October 22-23, 2006

<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html>

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### Indiana

May 5-6, 2007

<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>

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### Wisconsin

March 11, 2007

<http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>

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### Missouri

April 7-8, 2007

[http://www.qsl.net/w0ma/mo\\_qso\\_party.htm](http://www.qsl.net/w0ma/mo_qso_party.htm)



N9FN just started doing the QP's over the last 2 years. In 2004 & 2005 he did portable operations in ILQP from the Champaign/Douglas/Edgar/Vermilion county line. In 2005 he did INQP from the Jasper/Pulaski line and in 2006 he did INQP from a shelter in Brown. In 2005 & 2006 he and Mike (N9YB) did MIQP from a friend's warehouse in Berrien Co, MI. Also, in 2005 he did a rover from shelters in Auglaize and Mercer Counties.



SMC ops known / believed to be in contest							
Call	Class	K	QSO	Grids	Pts	comments	robot??

N9AKR	M-L	407	478	147	70,266	w/ w9LAH	x
NG9R	M-L	348	356	134	47,704	with N9JF	x
N9TF	M-L	256	293	92	26,956		x
K9SG	M-L				unk.		x
N2BJ	M-U	812	1024	230	235,520		x
W9SZ	Port	170		97	22,310		
N9GH	Port				unk.		
K9ILT	Rover				unk.		
WB9Z	SOHP	1,020		323	400,520		x
K9CT	SOHP	511	538	183	98,454		
KI9A	SOHP	368	368	137	50,416		
W9VA	SOHP				44,280		x
AI9L	SOHP	220	236	90	21,240		x
AF9H	SOHP	16	19	14	266		x
K2DRH	SOLP	1,212		361	544,749		
WO9S	SOLP	507	593	184	109,112		x
K9ZO	SOLP	427	454	169	76,726		
W9GKA	SOLP	386	414	162	67,068		x
KA9FOX	SOLP	478	478	135	64,530		x
AJ9C	SOLP	261	261	117	30,537		x
W9SE	SOLP	189	190	98	18,620		x
K9CS	SOLP	166	167	86	14,362		
N9IJ	SOLP	138	148	76	11,248		x
N9IO	SOLP	137	137	75	10,275		x
K9GY	SOLP	136	144	66	9,504		
N9LF	SOLP	114	114	69	7,866		x
K9IJ	SOLP	98	125	53	7,815		x
AA9MY	SOLP				unk.		
AB0RX	SOLP				unk.		x
K9OR	SOLP				unk.		x
KG9N	SOLP				unk.		x
W3HDH	SOLP				unk.		x

	8,377	6,537	3,098	1,990,344	score	
40					# in circle	
					robot	22

**Others -----**

KS9Z	M-L	414	414	123	50,922	In En20; KX9X, NM9H, ops.
W9LAS	SOHP	543	543	132	71,676	K9JS ran as W9LAS in en46
K9NS	M-L	1892		386	817,162	M-L no club noted yet
K9JK	Rover	160		80	15,840	Undecided on club
K3EAR	SOHP	1,385		380	849,300	K9PW, op
W9RVG					Unk.	In EM57



**SMC  
Dayton Pics  
2006**



# SMC Stuff

## SMC Clip-on Badge

by NV5A

The SMC logo appears at the top-center of the badge in black and white. Your call sign, first name and city & state appear in dark blue. The SMC name badge as shown with the slot & strap with swivel alligator clip, but there are other choices.

Price: \$14.50 (includes s&h).

Order now from **The SignMan**

Visit his full color web page to see other items you can get with the SMC Logo:

[www.thesignman.com/color/](http://www.thesignman.com/color/)



## KC9FD

**SOCIETY OF MIDWEST**

Club badges can be obtained by sending a check for \$5.50 to:

**Midwest Engraving**  
6920 W. North Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53213

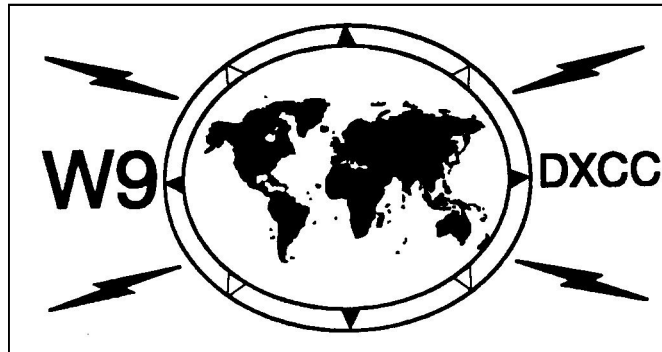
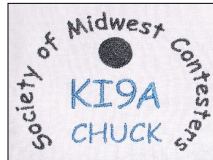
**Phone (414) 258-8655**  
**FAX (414) 258-8656**

Be sure to note that it is for a "Black Hole" badge and please allow a couple weeks for delivery.



## SMC Shirts

SMC short-sleeve Polo shirts are available in two styles: white shirt with "SMC" in black and "name and call" in blue lettering as shown below, or red shirt with black lettering. The cost is \$20, including shipping. You can email your orders to AD9P@swbell.net (Al) or N0UXQ@swbell.net (Sandy)



## The 54th W9DXCC DX CONVENTION & BANQUET

### SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

### Holiday Inn, Elk Grove, Illinois

<http://www.w9dxcc.com/>

## Member/New Member Information/ Update Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send updates to:

**JON OGDEN, NA9D**  
**905 SURREY LN**  
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## We need your input for the next 'Hole!!

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**Please consider putting an article  
together today!**



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## The Society of Midwest Contesters

*Brian Maves, K9QQ*  
*1322 Engle Creek Dr.*  
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