

THE BLACK HOLE



ARRL SS Unlimited Team Champs 2000, 2001, 2002

Official Journal of The Society of Midwest Contesters

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September 2008

President's ZO-fest Recap

By Mike Kasrich, AJ9C

As many of you read on the reflector the SMC had a midsummer event in August hosted by Ralph K9ZO. There has been discussion about how to keep the flame of competition burning and to promote more club identification. What came to mind on the board is what is old should be new again. Enter ZOfest.

I remember back in the late 80's early 90's going down to Bloomington and having a mid summer picnic at Ralph's. He took the ball and ran with it. The Bellas have a new facility for their Landscape business and this became the site for the meeting. Kevin W9GKA had suggested a picnic/annual meeting so that the members could have a face to face and hear about club business. With that as the backdrop things just exploded from there. A couple of folks volunteered to give some presentations and then a few others wanted to exchange some items they had for sale. VOILA, Mini convention!

August 9th started out a bit dreary and rainy but the trip from the far reaches of the circle were worth the effort. We had representation from all points in the circle and even a few that were outside. Presentations ranged from the practical (grounding and test

(Continued on page 3)

Contest Calendar

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|
| NCCC Sprint | Friday nights | 0230Z-03Z |
| NA Sprint CW | Sep 7 | 00Z-04Z |
| ARRL SepVHF QP | Sep 13-15 | 18Z-03Z |
| NA Sprint SSB | Sep 14 | 00Z-04Z |
| ARRL EME | Sep 20-21 | 00Z- 2359Z |
| ARRL 10 GHz and Up | Sep 20 -21 | 06L-24L |
| 144 MHz Fall Sprint | Sep 22 | 19L-23L |
| CQ WW DX RTTY | Sep 27-28 | 00Z-24Z |
| 222 MHz Fall Sprint | Sep 30 | 19L-23L |
| NA Sprint RTTY | Oct 12 | 00Z-04Z |
| CQWW DX SSB | Oct 25-28 | 00Z-24Z |
| CQWW DX CW | Nov 29-30 | 00Z-24Z |

Sweepstakes – 60 Days to Go !!!

By Kevin, W9GKA

We have had a good response so far in lining up stations for this year's Sweepstakes. The list of stations to date that we know of starts on page 5. We also have several stations that may be available for use. Please check in with me if you need or want a place to operate from.

And don't forget the Multi / Single opportunity that NCCC developed. It is quite legal under the current rules. Just bring your own transmitter to the 2nd location. This tactic can quickly generate many new points for the club at the 2nd location.

Also, forward your station abilities, as we are developing an HF Ops List. Your antennas, antenna height, power levels,

(Continued on page 5)

The Black Hole



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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:

BOARD

Pat Barkey, N9RV
Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z
Mike Wetzel, W9RE
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Kevin Kaufold, W9GKA
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Chad Kurszewski, WE9V
Paul Gentry, K9PG
Mark Obermann, AG9A
Ralph Bellas, K9ZO

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Zig Markowski, KM9M

CONTEST ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Vacant

AWARDS COORDINATOR

Chuck Schneebeil, KI9A

SMC Needs Your Financial Support

As one of the top contest clubs in the nation, we continue to sponsor plaques for a number of major contests including Sweepstakes, ARRL DX, CQWW, and CQWPX, as well as make monetary donations in the interest of promoting radio sporting.

A few years ago we decided to eliminate the 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:

1. Checks or money orders made payable to SMC:

SMC

c/o Zig Markowski - KM9M
50 E. Eureka Drive
Lemont, IL 60439-3970

2. Use Paypal and email your donation to donation@w9smc.com.

W9SMC

Official Callsign
of

The Society of Midwest Contesters

SMC Web Page: <http://w9smc.com>

SMC Stuff

To get your SMC stuff, see the last page of the newsletter or visit the SMC website, <http://w9smc.com/merchandise.htm>



Badges

Order
Today!



Shirts

CQVHFWW From EN67

By Larry Reiser, N9LR

K9CT Craig and Larry N9LR fellow SMCers from Central Illinois spent July 20 and 21st on top of Mt Brockway in EN67 for the CQVHFWW contest. We operated 6 and 2 meters running a ICOM 756Pro III on 6 and a Yaesu FT847 and a brick on 2. Our antennas were a M2 5 element Yagi on 6 and a 10 element Yagi on 2. The most recognizable



M2 5 el six meter beam on portable, crank-up tower and 10 el 2 meter beam on a mast.

and unusual feature included a 50 foot crank-up fully mobile and portable tower on wheels. This incredible mobile monster brought many a strange look from motorists passing by on I-39 as we traveled north. We used a more conventional military mast for 2 meters.



Larry, N9LR, at the operating position.

Unfortunately, conditions were not as good as we hoped. We completed about 200 Q's on six and 35 Q's on

(Continued on page 4)

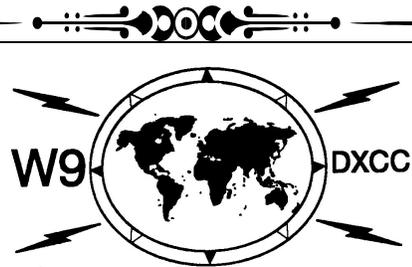
(Continued from page 1)

equipment) to operational TI9KK. For those of you that were there Craig's presentation was quite the insight into what not to do on a Dxpedition. Kevin presented a statistical analysis showing that suspots may effect our enthusiasm for getting on the air for a contest. It was also a good opportunity to get to know some about the members that you might not otherwise know. For instance Chuck KI9A is a competition grade BBQ purveyor. He brought a sample of his cooking for the crowd to enjoy during lunch. To say the least it was excellent as evidenced by the empty bowl.

The SMC presented to Kevin W9GKA the Unlimited Gavel we won for the 2007 June VHF Qso Party based upon his organization efforts. Jerry WB9Z was presented with the gavel for the 2007 ARRL 160m contest for having his station available year in and year out for Multi ops during this contest. Jerry added to that by recognizing the operators in attendance that make the the multi possible. We truly are a club of Champions.

Connie and Ralph provided (this time around) eats and beverages for he crowd. I don't think anyone went away hungry thats for sure. This event will be held next year and hopefully for many more to come. Start saving up your gas money, gathering items for sale and building those projects. We want to hear from you, we need to hear from you. This event became the the HUGE success it was because people stepped up to the plate and offered to make presentations , bring items and set up demos. Lets do it all again in 2009!

See pictures on pages 7-8.



56th W9DXCC DX Convention & Banquet

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2008

Holiday Inn Chicago
Elk Grove, Illinois

SMC Friday Night gathering at Weber Grill
For details, contact Eric, K9GY

(Continued from page 3)



Craig, K9CT, at the operating position.

2. Some short Es on six saved the gridpedition from being a bust but 2 was quiet with our longest efforts into northern Illinois in EN52 and EN41. All the equipment worked flawlessly and the Honda generator ran for 30 hours on 5 gallons of gas. Not bad considering gas was almost \$5 a gallon in this remote section of the northwoods.

The best and most unexpected surprise occurred when we filled up with gas in Copper Harbor at the mountains base. The gas station owner took one look at the mobile tower trailer and said he was going to tell all the local hams we were in town. Sure enough about a dozen locals visited during the weekend bringing breakfast, lunch and dinner. The local fair included a dish called Pasties. A combination of meat and vegetables in a heavy flour wrap. Hot food was welcome on the cool cloudy mountain top. We even had a visitor at midnight on Saturday pop in to see what meteor scatter and WSJT were all about.

We hope we encouraged the locals to get on the air and take advantage of the rare grids up north. We had a great time and will be going again. Perhaps for the June contest. Try putting a radio in the car and activating a grid near home that may not be active. You will not regret the effort.



rigs, etc are all very useful in determining current abilities of club members. No station is too small for inclusion.

Please keep the replies coming. Go SMC

Sweepstakes 2008 Commitments

| Call | CW | PH | | Call | CW | PH |
|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|------|-------|
| AA9DY | PT | PT | | N9AVY | | maybe |
| AD9P | yes | yes | | N9BOR | some | |
| AF9J | yes | yes | | N9BT | yes | yes |
| AJ9C | FT | FT | | N9BX | yes | yes |
| K0CA | yes | | | N9CO | yes | PT |
| K0PG | yes? | yes? | | N9EP | yes | yes |
| K8GU | yes | yes | | N9FC | yes | yes |
| K8IAT | | yes | | N9FH | some | |
| K9AY | yes | maybe | | N9GTC | yes | yes |
| K9BF | yes | yes | | N9JF | | yes |
| K9BGL | yes | yes | | N9KHR | yes | yes |
| K9CC | FT | PT | | N9LAH | yes | prob |
| K9CS | yes | PT | | N9LF | yes | yes |
| K9CT | yes | yes | | N9MSG | yes | yes |
| K9CW | yes | | | N9NA | yes | yes |
| K9DUR | maybe | | | N9PUZ | PT | PT |
| K9GY | FT | PT | | N9RJX | | yes |
| K9IG | yes | yes | | N9TF | yes | yes |
| K9IJ | yes | | | N9UC | yes | yes |
| K9JE | yes | yes | | N9VVS | | maybe |
| K9MOT | yes | yes | | N9XX | yes | maybe |
| K9MV | | maybe | | N9YH | | yes |
| K9NR | FT | yes | | NF9V | yes | yes |
| K9OR | yes | yes | | NG9R | | yes |
| K9PG | yes | yes | | W0JPL | prob | prob |
| K9SD | yes | yes | | W0TT | yes | yes |
| K9SG | | yes | | W3HDH | yes | yes ? |
| K9UQN | yes | yes | | W9DEW | | maybe |
| K9WX | prob | prob | | W9GIG | | FT |

Sweepstakes 2008 Commitments (cont.)

| Call | CW | PH | | Call | CW | PH |
|--------|-----|--------|--|--------|-----|-----|
| K9XE | yes | | | W9GKA | yes | yes |
| K9ZA | yes | yes | | W9IL | yes | yes |
| K9ZA | yes | yes | | W9IL | yes | yes |
| K9ZO | PT | PT | | W9IU | yes | yes |
| K9ZT | yes | | | W9LO | yes | yes |
| KB9CYL | | yes | | W9RE | FT | PT |
| KB9WQJ | | yes | | W9RN | yes | yes |
| KC9IL | | casual | | W9SE | yes | yes |
| KD9AC | | yes | | W9SZ | yes | yes |
| KG9IL | | maybe | | W9XA | yes | |
| KG9N | yes | yes | | W9XT | yes | yes |
| KI0Y | yes | yes | | W9YS | yes | yes |
| KI9A | | FT | | WA9IVH | | yes |
| KJ9C | FT | FT | | WB8BZK | | yes |
| KK9K | | | | WB9Z | yes | yes |
| KK9V | PT | PT | | WE9V | yes | yes |
| KM9M | yes | yes | | WG9L | yes | |
| KX9DX | yes | yes | | WO9S | yes | yes |
| N7MB | PT | PT | | WT9U | yes | yes |
| | | | | WW9R | yes | yes |

ARRL Sweepstakes 2008
CW November 1st—3rd
SSB November 15th—17th



ZO-fest 2008



08/09/2008



The host, Ralph, K9ZO



The president, Mike, AJ9C



Jerry, WB9Z, accepts the gavel for the ARRL 160 Club victory



Kevin, W9GKA, accepts the gavel for the ARRL VHF club victory



SMC Stuff

SMC Clip-on Badge

by NVSA

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/



KC9FD

SOCIETY OF MIDWEST

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

Midwest Engraving
6657 N. Sidney Place
Glendale, WI 53209

Ph: 414-228-8654
Fax: 414-228-8655

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

Member/New Member Information/ Update Form

Name: _____

Call: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send updates to:

Zig Markowski - KM9M
50 E. Eureka Drive
Lemont, IL 60439-3970

We need your input for the next 'Hole!!

- ⇒ **Operating stories**
- ⇒ **Station construction**
- ⇒ **Operating accessories**
- ⇒ **Packet and computer hints**
- ⇒ **Product reviews**
- ⇒ **Plug your upcoming DXpedition**
- ⇒ **Your idea here**

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



The Society of Midwest Contesters

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