

THE BLACK HOLE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS

Volume #1, Issue #1

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1985 TO 1986 OFFICERS:

President - Steve Dubberstein NA9D

812 Larsen Avenue Streamwood Illinois 60103

Illinois Chairman - Ralph Bellas K9ZD

RR4 Bloomington Illinois 61701

Indiana Chairman - Tom Poland N9NC

345 South Chauncey West Lafayette Indiana 47906

Wisconsin Chairman - Gary Sutcliffe W9HT

Rte 1 Box 196 Neosho Wisconsin 53059

Contest Activities Chairman - Roy Sokola K9RS

430 Hobblebush Dr Lake Zurich Illinois 60047

This is the first newsletter of the Society of Midwest Contesters. The society was formed early in 1985 with the goal of uniting midwest contesters into a competitive group, and to further the idea of radiosporting in the midwest. Club activities will include a weekly 75 meter net, periodic social events, and club competition in ARRL and CQ magazine contests, as well as National Contest Journal sprint teams. The intent is to make the society competitive with the best big clubs in America.

Why "The Black Hole" as the name of a newsletter? Those who have contested from the midwest realize that we have not been blessed with the same propagation as our fellow citizens in other parts of the country. At times it is actually like being in a "black hole" of propagation. Being at somewhat of a disadvantage is no excuse, however, and we must try that much harder in order to do better than those elsewhere. Hopefully, the name of the newsletter will be a constant reminder of this.

For some hams, contesting is the most exciting aspect of amateur radio. In a contest, one can talk to many places in a short time, experiment with propagation with a large pool of hams, test equipment under the worst of conditions, and rack up the QSO's for various awards. There are lots of

great reasons to contest, and lots of different contesters. Whether you are an active, casual, or occasional contest participant there is room for you in the Society of Midwest Contesters.

Any licensed amateur in the midwest can be a member. There are no meeting requirements to remain a member, but some meeting requirements do exist for ARRL club competition. Dues for 1985 to 1986 is \$3.00.

AWARDS PROGRAM

Most major contests do not offer awards for anything but the most serious contester with the most serious station. In order to give everyone a fair chance at an award, the society will sponsor internal club awards for all contests the society enters a club score in. Categories will be based on the capability of your station. Proposed categories are:

Class 3: Under 200W output power used, no HF beams

Class 2: Under 200W output power used, unlimited antennas

Class 1: Over 200W output power used, single tribander and no 40/80 meter directional antennas

Unlimited: Anything you can imagine within the law

It is hoped the categories will make certificates available to all, regardless of the station one owns. The rest is up to you.

MEETINGS - MEETINGS - MEETINGS

The large area that the society covers makes in-person club meetings a challenge. Hopefully the 75 meter net will help somewhat with this problem. Although meeting attendance is not mandatory for club membership, it is a requirement for ARRL club competition. If you live outside the 50 mile circle on the map but within the 175 mile circle, you will have to attend one meeting this fall to be eligible for the ARRL SS and DX contest club competition. We will have one meeting in Indiana and one for the Wisconsin/Illinois hams, both most likely at hamfests. Details of these in the next newsletter. Inside of the 50 mile circle, there are no mandatory meeting requirements. Most contests don't allow contribution of club scores outside of 175 miles of club center, but we welcome members from all areas of the midwest who are interested in contesting.

The society is not intended to replace local DX or contest clubs. Hopefully by "banding together" as a team as those in other parts of the country have done, we can be competitive as a whole. There will be competition within the society among local clubs to keep local club competition alive.

75 METER NET

The society meets on Monday nights on 3858 KHZ plus/minus 2 KHZ at 7:00 P.M. local *central* time (Indiana hams in other time zones note). Feel free to listen and/or participate in the net.

OFFICER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

There are two officer openings remaining in club government. They are:

Secretary - treasurer: Responsible for publishing *the Black Hole* 5 - 6 times per year, and keeping track of dues and club membership. Should have access to inexpensive printing facilities and be a fairly active contesteer.

Awards chairman: Responsible for printing of certificates and execution of the internal club awards program.

If your are interested in either position, please contact NA9D.

CLICKS AND SPLATTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

With this newsletter comes the introduction of the Society of Midwest Contesters. You may of heard of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, the Mad River Radio Club, the Northern California Contest Club, etc. Although our club circle contains the third largest population base in the country, it has no large contest club. I hope the society will fill this gap. In order for the society to succeed, we need members from all parts of the tri-state and greater area. Judging from the caliber of contesters I've seen, I know we can be competitive.

The club government has been set up to stress equal emphasis over our entire geographical area. As a Wisconsin native and now an Illinois resident, I am committed to making sure "that guy in the sticks" isn't left out.

I hope local groups of contesters will gather periodically for "social benefit." There will be bi-monthly social events in the Chicago area, and I know Joe, KJ9D, has started the "Hoosier Contest Club" in central Indiana. The HCC will be contributing scores for most of the major contests the society participates in. Central Indiana residents contact KJ9D for further details.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

For a \$3.00 membership dues, a society member receives:

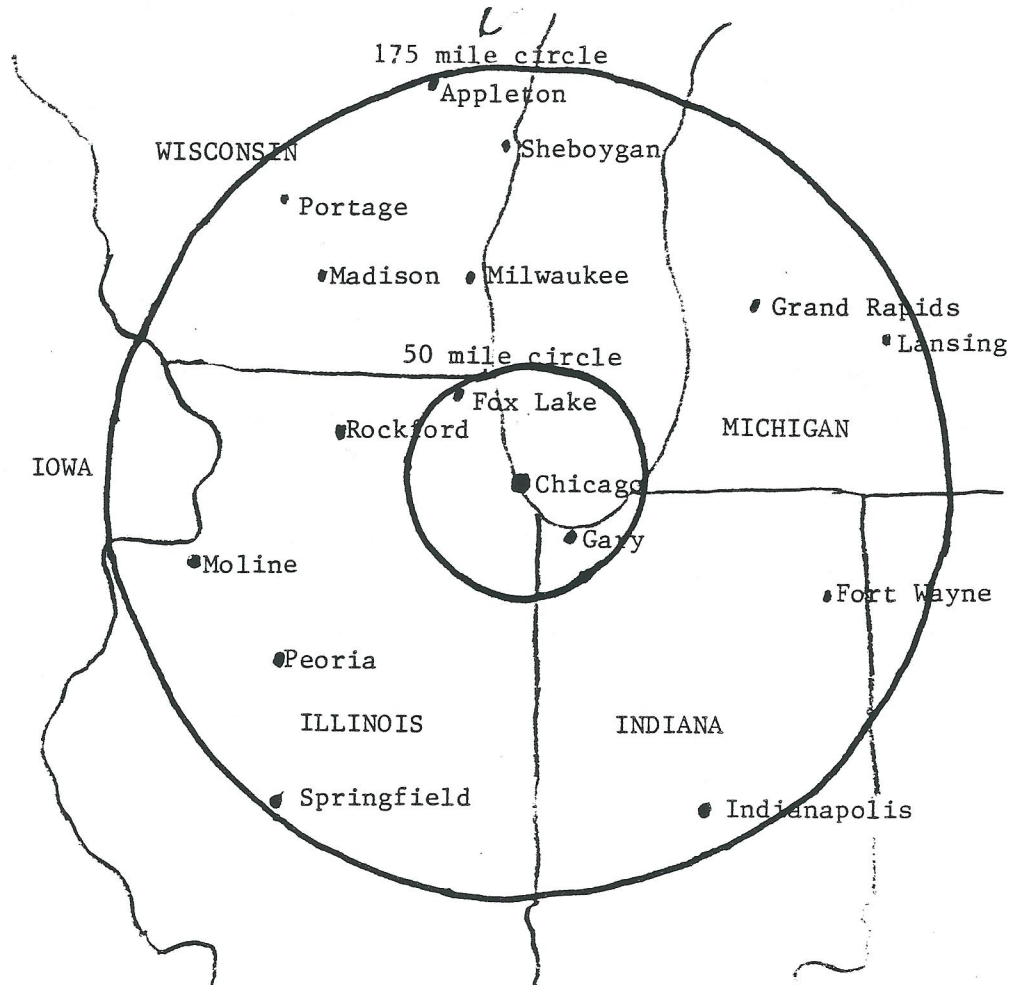
- * A newsletter, *The Black Hole*, with contest stories, tips, rumors, and club meeting and social event information
- * A copy of a blank log sheet and summary sheet for contests the society enters (SS, ARRL DX, CQWW, CQ 160 meter, NCJ sprint, etc.)
- * Eligibility for internal club awards
- * The pride of belonging to a big contest club

Join and become a charter member of the Society of Midwest Contesters.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter for members will be in August. Planning for fall contests will be discussed, as well as organization of sprint teams for the NCJ sprints in September. W9XT will be editing a column called "The Contest Roundtable," and there will be a profile in each newsletter of one of our members. Both fall meetings will also be detailed.

SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:



MEMBERSHIP FORM

THE SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ARE YOU AN ARRL MEMBER? _____

OTHER CLUBS YOU BELONG TO _____

OTHERS WHO MAY WISH TO JOIN _____

CONTESTS YOU PARTICIPATE IN _____

Dues for 1985 to 1986 is \$3.00. Please send this form and \$3.00 to:

Steve Dubberstein NA9D
812 Larsen Avenue
Streamwood IL 60103