

THE BLACK HOLE

The Official Journal of the Society of Midwest Contesters

Volume #1, Issue #7

Aug-Oct 1986

1986 to 1987 Officers:

President - Dave Patton, AH2U

Ill Chairman - Ralph Bellas, K9ZO

Wis Chairman - Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

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Contest Activities Chairman - Mike Taylor, AC9C

MEETING NOTICES - Sunday Sep 21, 1:00 PM CDT at Peoria Hamfest in the opera house (same location as last year). Meeting will adjourn to Lums at 2:00 PM in continuation for those not attending the fest. Lums is at N. University and Lake by KMart. -- **SAT Sep 27** at Greyslake Radio Expo, 1:00 PM. Location to be announced.

NOTES FROM RADIO FREE SLUDGE VALLEY

NA9D really went to some extreme in order to get out of doing this newsletter. Steve broke his back after riding an ill-fated tower down to the ground up in Wisconsin. Fortunately he will return to 100%, maybe just a little shorter that's all. This was a freak accident, but we must keep stressing safety when doing that antenna work. We wish Steve a speedy recovery.

Here we are again, fast approaching the most arduous part of the contesters year. Hope everyone has had as good a summer as I have. My trip out to the Northwest was great, and will be remembered for a long time. I met most of the crew out there, and it's still hard to keep a straight face when I speak of the guys from the Rubber Circle Contest Club. K7LXC will keep you going for a long time. The most memorable part of the trip had to be the visit to W7RM. Rush has got to have the best location in the world out there on Foul Weather Bluff. Well, not the best by himself, because W6RR lives right next door. I mean right next door! And I do believe Gordon has bigger antennas, just not as many as Rush. They are several hundred feet above the sound, and with a straight shot everywhere it just made my mouth water. The only drawback I saw was the cliff that was part of their backyards. Sheer--right down to the water, which by the way is where RM's 160 sloper for JA went. Rush also was the banquet speaker, and came back from Newington with some neat information including news about a possible "brand new DXCC" award. We should all hear about this soon, as it is expected to bring lots of controversy. If there is a new DXCC, it is doubtful that it could be instituted before 1987 or 1990 or so. It also calls for being awarded on the merit system, which means no more burdensome QSL checking. It was not clear what would happen to the old DXCC, except that the Honor roll would be retained.

We had an enjoyable meeting at K9ZO's QTH, and I want to thank Ralph for his and his wife's hospitality. Much was discussed, and enthusiasm heightened as we went over a couple of big happenings for the club. One is the new SMC circle, which I think most of us have heard about. Basically, we decided to move the inner circle out of Lake Michigan, and thus move the outer circle to a more usable area South and West. The gains far outweighed the losses, and thus the circle has been redrawn with the center somewhere around Marseillies, IL. A few stations who were not in the inner circle before, are in the circle now, and do not have to attend meetings for ARRL score credit. Invariably, some stations may now be out of the magic circle.

These will be the stations in Northeastern Illinois. Please check your mailing label for changes, and the membership list at the end of the newsletter. We have gained 14 new members including superstations K4VX, W9RE, and K9HMB. Welcome to all the new members, and to all the returning alumni. If you haven't sent in your renewal, please be sure to do so, as I don't want to see any calls from our roster after this letter. The membership list also includes your current status. We are the biggest and the best in the Midwest.

After last years SS, the SMC seems to be collectively fired-up for this years event. In the good spirit of such enthusiasm it has been requested by our membership that the SMC put forth a challenge to our nearest contest club, the Mad River Contesters, to match our might in this years SS. The spoils will be eats at the Dayton suite which both clubs sponsor. I have contacted the Big Fish, Joe, W8LND, and he says go for it, so we're on. This will be fun no matter what happens. Dayton is sure shaping up to be another blast. We will obviously shoot for the Unlimited class again, and I hope to see every member possible submit scores for this years event. If you only do one contest this year, make it the SS! Cu all in Peoria and in the tests! **Q AH2U**

NEW MEMBERS

K4VX	Lew Gordon	K9KLR	Nick Lash
W5ONL	Dick Sisson	KM9P	Bill Fisher
N9AX	Phil Zminda	WB9TIY	Keith Morehouse
K9CC	George Zurbuchen	W9RE	Mike Wetzel
K9HMB	Frank Miller	AG9V	John Ackermann
W9IL	Louis Hodges	KR0Y	Jeff Steinman
KA9JOF	Jane McGinley	NS0Z	Terry Gordon

CHANGES

N9CIW now KD9WK
 KC9DL now NJ9Q
 KD9ET now NK9G
 K9RS heading to Indiana

IT'S SEPTEMBER. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CQWW SCORE IS ?

By Dave Patton, AH2U/W9 *victim*

I have often contemplated the reasoning behind why I like contesting. I surmised that it could be the satisfaction of running over 200 per hour, or the artful, scholarly feeling of flying no-mistakes straight through a Sprint or SS QSO at 45 WPM. Then again, it could be the total exhilaration of working that weak UHB on the longpath on 40 meters at 8 AM--and imagining what is going through the UHB's mind. Or I might like the feeling of power after winning 14.160 after a long battle with a guy who has run EU for the last 6 hours while we grovel in their QRM. And just as satisfying has to be the comraderie among your fellow contesters (especially at a multi-multi) who have gone through the very same phenomena and more, or sharing the excitement of someone who has just built a killer antenna that I may have helped with in some way. All of this is close to the real reason why I like contesting.

My personal issue of the September CQ showed up, and contained within were the complete results of the 86 WW SSB! Excitedly and without abandon I zoom in to the opening on page 11. Good--it's for real. Now I have to check as fast as possible to make sure that my call is there with that score.

God, where is it? Flip through all the advertisements that stretch every contest report immeasurably, and finally there are the East coast scores which are always on their own page. They should go at the back of the report because they win all the contests anyway. Aha! Here we are on page 22. My pulse skyrockets as there's something wrong. My call isn't here!! " Oh no, what now? I mean I know I didn't try all that hard, but I did put in some really miserable hours for this test" Think, think, maybe they put my score in with the other scores from the Pacific. Yeah that must be what happened. Everybody has been confused with Aha-To-You since I've been home. Flip through some more ads, there is Guam, but only a magnificent score by KG6DX (even in a state of panic a good contester can be awed!). I'm not there either. Suddenly I break into a cold sweat as I realize what has obviously occurred. The worst thing I can ever imagine happening to an upstanding contester. I've been mistakenly disqualified! Flip to page 30, where is it? Jeez there are a lot of check logs this year. Why don't all those Russians submit an entry? "Whew!" Incredible flood of relief. I'm not there either. Only a couple of VE's who must have stolen a frequency from one of the logcheckers (as a bit of poor humor slips into my system). Anger takes over at this point as I start swearing at the dude that puts together the final copy for the report. I even sent an SASE with my entry so I would know the log-checker had my logs.

This is precisely when I realized what I like most about contesting--and that is to see the results (in print) of what I spent my time one weekend doing. It is smugly satisfying to see my call above those of so many others, and to have this opportunity taken away has broken me down to the introvert that I am. The same person who had forsaken almost all normal activities that every teenager takes part in. This same person who didn't go on dates when in high school because they would have to occur on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, which were also the best times to operate a contest. This same person who spent almost every dollar he had on printing QSL cards, and then going into debt to include green stamps so that he could see his call climb to the top in the DXCC listings. This same person who may have been a baseball star today, had he only fine-tuned his skills in high school rather than fine-tuning the low end of 10 meters. This same person who now after discovering he has been left out of the 1986 CQ WW SSB results, and swears he will sell every piece of equipment he can get a hand on, and use the money to date every single girl in the Northern Hemisphere--has found the mistake.

There it is, right underneath the fine scores of KV9S and KS9U, mistakenly masked under the call of K9QXY, is my EXACT line score. The very same one I sent to CQ almost one year ago. K9QXY now has unknowingly taken all the credit for blowing up my Dads amplifier 4 times that weekend, and driving the neighbors to desperate acts to get me off the radio, and keeping my dog up all night because she likes to sleep on top of my footswitch. Nobody will ever know how much actually went into that score.

To all log-checkers and committee members: Your job may well be linked to the very being of many people. People who have given up the normalcies of life to work Vlad on 40 meters at sunrise, stare at digital readouts instead of digital bodies of opposite gender objects, and most of all see their name in print. Please be careful when you submit that report for the press!!

(Actually, I still don't know why I do this)

SMC SS results and awards

There weren't quite enough entries per class to justify an awards program with single modes, so this year we have combined SS scores per category for a more realistic view. As one can see, the club made a lot of Q's in those 48 hours. Also, an all out effort on one mode only, turned out to be worth more points to the club rather than a pair of semi-efforts on both modes. But it was the smaller both-modes entries that put us over the top into the unlimited category, so it is difficult to determine which effort is worth more to the club. Scores are as follows: Finish-Call-Total points-Total QSO's-Total mults-pwr-mode/ctgy
Boldface calls indicate certificate winners.

Mode Key: M=multi-op, P=Phone, C=CW, B=both modes entered

CLASS 3

1.	WA4TWB	71,402	551	119	A	B
2.	K1TMM	41,976	318	66	A	P
3.	WB9TOC	29,700	225	66	A	P
4.	AK9N	2,548	53	24	A	C

CLASS 2

1.	K2PLF	255,094	1750	145	A	B
2.	WB9JKI	204,680	1400	146	A	B
3.	WA1UJU	173,060	1209	143	A	B
4.	W9J00	158,516	1078	147	A	B
5.	KG9Z	122,692	856	142	A	B/M
6.	W9LNQ	109,770	757	145	A	B
7.	K9UIY	103,988	748	102	A	B
8.	NG9L	92,862	693	134	A	B
9.	K9JU	89,936	616	73	A	C
10.	N9AW	89,852	647	139	A	B
11.	N9BBM	65,540	509	120	A	B
12.	N9CWR	24,112	254	92	A	B

At K9MFI for SSB

CLASS 1

1.	AH2U	314,320	2136	147	B	B
2.	K9RS	172,568	1166	148	B	B
3.	K9KM	146,592	1044	115	B	B
4.	NORSH	136,102	962	131	B	B
5.	WD9GYX	102,098	719	71	B	C
6.	WB9HRO	97,068	685	141	B	B
7.	N9WA	65,688	483	68	B	M/P
8.	W9RW	27,696	258	106	B	B
9.	N9IA	7,544	82	46	B	P

UNLIMITED

1.	AC9C	347,808	2362	147	B	B
2.	K9ZO	305,620	2065	148	B	B
3.	KS9D	272,356	1856	147	B	MC/P
4.	NA9D	256,858	1796	143	B	B
5.	WB9HAD	206,608	1396	74	B	P
6.	W9XT	153,444	1105	133	B	B
7.	W9YT	147,312	1023	72	B	M/P
8.	KM9L	23,810	195	107	B	B

?????

1.	K9RR	59,360	484	120	B	?
2.	WA9YSD	48,528	411	113	A	?

3.	W9WI	48,440	346	70	A	?/C
4.	KC9UM	46,920	340	69	B	?/P
5.	N9AU	45,402	329	69	A	?/C
6.	W9HBI	25,190	229	55	A	?/C

SPRINT RUMORS (CW)

AH2U	245-37	K5ZD	260- ?
AC9C	225-31	N2IC	305-36
K9ZD	225- ? 33	K1KI	275- ?
K5RX	326-38	(KROY opr)	

Next issue: SS; Computer contesting by W9XT; NA9D survives fall from tower-a first hand look at dismantling towers the quick way; Profiles of 2 of our members.

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