

THE BLACK HOLE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS

Volume #1, Issue #5

February - April 1986

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Contest Activities Chairman - Ray Sokola K9RS 430 Hobbleshush Dr Lake Zurich IL 60047

Awards Chairman - Dave Patton AH2U 520 Walnut Dr Streamwood IL 60103

Sprint Team Coordinator - Mike Taylor AC9C 1119 E. Illinois Wheaton IL 60187

The Society meets every Saturday Morning at 10:30 A.M. local central time on 3858 KHZ +-2 KHZ. Society dues are \$3.00 per year. Information on membership is available from any of the officers. Material from *The Black Hole* may be reproduced providing proper credit is given to the author and *The Black Hole*.

FROM THE EDITOR

Lots has happened since the last newsletter, and plenty more to come. I apologize for not getting this issue out a little sooner. I wanted to get as much information as possible in on our Dayton Suite. We will be teaming up with the Mad River Radio Club to sponsor a suite at the Stouffer's in Dayton this year. See the article on the next page for details. The suites at Dayton are really the contesters' social event of the year, so if you are going to Dayton MAKE SURE you hit the suites on Friday or Saturday night.

Many members were worked in the CQ 160 meter tests. Scores seem to be up from last year despite worse conditions, at least to Europe. Goes to show the 160 contests are growing fast. We should have a decent club score for this one, although results may not come out until December. Hopefully we will come out on top. Speaking of being on top, SS results will be out the end of April and we will see how we did in our first big effort. You may recall the goal was to submit 50 or more entries to be an "unlimited class" club. I have a feeling we will be right around that number.

There have been a few inquiries on how the club awards program will be administered. In the next issue of *The Black Hole* there we will have membership renewal and a form for everyone to send in. Along with renewal info, we will use this form to ask some yes/no type questions of the membership on what direction the Society should take in the upcoming year. There will also be an area to check off what "competition category" you used for each contest that the Society is sponsoring awards in. We will then correlate each members' form with the official results as published in the sponsoring magazine and issue certificates. Hopefully we will be able to present many of these in person at society functions.

The rules for the IARU Radiosport contest - renamed "The IARU HF Championship" - were just published in QST. The most noticeable change is the contest has been reduced to 24 hours in length. I think this is great, and reflects a trend to shorten up some of the sometimes obnoxious lengths that contests can run. This change should help concentrate activity and keep activity high for a contest in the middle of the summer.

Many times as I have worked on the sometimes tedious activities associated with running the Society, I wonder if it is having an effect. Well, it has, to a much larger degree than I expected. Do you realize we are not one year old yet but have almost 90 members? That we now field full sprint teams that are competitive in the NCJ sprints? That in Illinois alone there will be 6 or more stations in the Phone SS with over 1000 Q's, all of whom are society members? These are just a few examples of the tremendous increase in activity that has taken place since the Society showed up. There is a large increase in activity on the part of the "little guns" too, hopefully spurred on by the idea of winning awards based on their operating skill at the particular type of station they field. Could you imagine what a powerhouse we would be if we could add some Indiana members to our ranks? Watch out YCCC, MRRC, NCCC and others!!!

For the last two years, myself and Mike AC9C have packed up our stations and headed to northwest Wisconsin for the Wisconsin QSO Party. This year was really worth it with almost 600 Q's nabbed in 7 hours. I am convinced that "per capita" this is the best state QSO party in the nation. Action was nonstop for all 7 hours, and every county was on the air. I know I worked 68 of 72. Several records were broken.

There was quite a crowd at the last "Social gathering" held at the QTH of NA9D following the Wheaton swapfest. I enjoyed meeting everyone who I had not met before. AH2U had a videotape of Guam to show and we managed to collect a few bucks for the ARRL DX Contest plaque fund. The next official meetings of the Society will be at the South Milwaukee swapfest on July 12 and at a yet to be determined date in central Illinois. Details in the next *Black Hole*.

Some of you may recall a review of the Lance Johnson contest keyer in our second newsletter. I recently got one of the "Lance Johnson updates" that comes with being a LJ keyer owner. They now offer a non-volatile RAM option for \$20 and a 2-position footswitch for controlling memories for about 25 bucks. But most important, they will be increasing the price of the keyer immediately following Dayton. So if you want to buy one, now may be the time. If you do buy it at Dayton, buy it on the first day as they have run out of keyers the last few years at the hamvention.

Many thanks to NB9T for submitting some ideas on a Society emblem. If anyone else would like to give it a crack send, me your ideas. The officers will decide on an emblem soon and then we hope to offer club QSL's, pins, tee-shirts, etc. by the next contest season.

No log sheets in this issue. I hope to keep more up to date on this next year and will get out some of the more esoteric logs that people usually don't have in their files. The Society net is alive but sometimes has some trouble getting going. Several of the officers have been working alot of Saturday mornings, so if no officers show up just get things going at 10:30 without us. Hope to see you all at the Suite in Dayton!

73, Steve NA9D

THE DAYTON SUITE

Yep, this is it. We are sponsoring a suite with the Mad River group at the Stouffer's Dayton Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. The best directions to the Stouffer's are go downtown until you see it. There is a map that comes with that activity book you get at the hamfest. There will be signs in the lobby directing you to the suite - it will probably be labeled "Mad River Radio Club." The suite runs from 8:00 P.M. on both Friday and Saturday evening of the Hamvention.

One very important note - the suite costs bucks. We have committed to a \$100 donation toward the cost of the suite. It was decided by the officers to not draw this from the Society treasury as not all the members will be at Dayton (we don't have enough money anyway, so that was an easy decision). Thus what we would like to do is leave the burden of the cost of the suite on the shoulders of those who will be there. We are asking a \$5 or greater donation toward the suite if you are planning on attending. It may be the best five bucks you spend all year. Anyway, if it is in the goodness of your heard fire off a check as soon as possible the the Society treasurer:

Steve Dubberstein
812 Larsen Avenue
Streamwood IL 60103

Make the check payable to Steve Dubberstein. Also, if you would like to assist in tending bar, etc. include a note to that effect. Don't forget to invite your friends, buddies, mates, or anyone else who likes to have fun. There will be a slide show of some member's stations, put together by Bruce K1TMM. Many thanks go out to Bruce for handling the logistics of the suite.

ELECTIONS

Any active amateur radio organization relies heavily on its officers. In the case of the SMC this is especially so, as our membership is spread over a wide area. Elections for the posts of president, Illinois chairman, Indiana chairman, Wisconsin chairman, contest activities chairman, and secretary/treasurer are to be held each spring. Well, this spring is no exception.

Nominations are by another member or self nomination. Nominations will be taken up to June 1, 1986. They are to be submitted in writing to the address of the president. Elections will take place after that, to be announced in the next newsletter and done by mail secret ballot. The winner in the case of a mail vote shall be the plurality winner.

OK, let's get realistic. What does this mean? In a club of this type, most of the officers end up being volunteers. Self-nomination is a way of letting volunteers offer their services. If only one person is nominated for a position, he wins the position via "the plurality vote" without having to mess with an election. So why have an election process at all? Well, there is always the possibility of two or more well qualified individuals running for a post, or the possibility of not wanting an individual to have a post. But realistically, there should be just enough posts to take care of the volunteers.

So if you would like to run for one of the above positions, then nominate yourself or have someone nominate you. If you nominate somebody else, make sure he would like to serve in that position. This is the first time for elections for the Society, and hopefully this method will keep politics to a minimum and contesting to a maximum without sacrificing the democratic operation necessary to keeping a club going. So don't forget - deadline is June 1!

THE ARMADILLO RUN

You may of read quite a bit about this colossal event already. In honer of the 150th anniversary of Texas Independence, the Texas DX Society is going to try to activate all 3076 counties in the US over a period of two weekends, the Phone and CW County Hunters' Contests. Dates are set as May 3-4 for phone and July 26-27 for CW. There is a good article in April QST describing the entire event. Lots of awards and activity are promised. In any case, if you would like to be a part of the mobile effort to activate the counties in the tri-state area the coordinators for each state are listed on the next page:

Illinois - Joyce Boothe WB9NUL 705 May Ct Channahon IL 60410 815-467-6912

Indiana - David Hulley N9AUV 3440 N Largo Rd Marion IN 46952

Wisconsin - Tom Ross K9GTQ N 7969 HWY 51 Irma WI 54442

These folks are coordinating the counties for each state for both weekends.

TREASURY REPORT

The treasury as of 4/15/86:

Previous Balance:	148.97
Additional Dues:	+24.00
Postage	<u>-80.80</u>
End Balance	92.17

The Plaque fund stands at \$20.00 donated so far.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

A "*" indicates an events involving direct Society of Midwest Contesters participation

April 19	North American QSO Party Phone - logs due May 19
*April 25,26	SMC and MRRRC suite at the Stouffer's in Dayton (don't miss it!)
May 3-4	Armadillo Run Phone - logs due June 4
*May 23-25	CQ WPX CW - logs due July 10
*July 12	SMC Official meeting at the South Milwaukee Swapfest
July 12-13	IARU HF Championship - Logs due August 13
July 26-27	Armadillo Run CW - logs due August 27

RESULTS, RUMORS, AND OTHER FUN INFO

The latest ramblings appear below with the usual catch that they are only rumors and may contain some error created by some unknown force:

CQ 160 CW

K9RS	845/83	+K9KM ,K9VV, NA9D
W9AZ	646/77	+WB9HAD, K9ZO, AK9F, K9NR, K9IFO
W9XT	407/60	
N9CWR	38/18	
NOBSH	32/18	
KM9L	40,300	
WB9JKI	39,308	

73 MAGAZINE 40M CONTEST

KS9O	1013/80	+NB9T
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73 MAGAZINE 75M CONTEST

WB9HAD	1047/80	
KS9O	825/92	+NB9T

73 MAGAZINE 160M CONTEST

WB9HAD	1431/75
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FEBRUARY NCJ SPRINT CW

K9ZO 202/?
 AH2U 199/35
 AC9C 197/36
 NA9D 174/35
 W9XT 137/33
 WB9JKI 134/28
 K2PLF 74/?

FEBRUARY NCJ SPRINT PHONE

AC9C 256/34
 AH2U 247/37
 K9ZO 241/37
 N0BSH 227/36
 K9RS 226/35
 NA9D 196/30
 W9YT 194/29 W9WI op
 W9XT 184/31
 KO9Q 160/?

ARRL DX CW

K9UIY 675/74
 WB9JKI 187/109
 KG9Z 31/14
 WB9HAD 28/21 160M

ARRL DX PHONE

WB9HAD 586/83 20M
 KC9DL 89/62
 N9CIW 44/35
 KG9Z 12/12

M/S: P40M (including K9GL, K9VV ops) Aruba for ARRL DX CW:

160 200/44
 80 537/56
 40 1265/57
 20 1695/59
 15 1205/52
10 340/34
 Total 5232/300

M/S: K4VX (+ AH2U, KM9P, K9BGL)

160 44/30
 80 122/53
 40 288/71
 20 623/73
 15 172/59
10 16/15
 Total 1265/301 1.12 Meg

WISCONSIN QSO PARTY (CW, Phone, Mult)

K9EC 246/877/119 M/M+N0BSH
 AC9C 183/403/114
 NA9D 186/384/114
 W9XT 192/264/102
 W9WI/M 143/68/59
 AB9L/M 0/239/46
 WB9TOC/M 0/142/33
 WA1UJU 31,160
 N9KS 15,232 K1TMM op
 NI9U/M 3,000

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL TOP TEN (OFFICIAL)

K9RS 222
 K5MR 218
 K9ZO 208
 AC9C 201
 KU8E 184
 K5MM/7 179
 KS9O 168
 K5NA 162
 AI7B 160
 NA2N 160

Congrats to four
 SMC members who
 made the top ten!
 Who was in the
 black hole this
 time??

Late rumors - SS CW KS9O 700/74 (+NB9T), SS Phone KS9O 1200/73, CQWW CW:
 K9UIY 405/76/142, W9GXR 222/36/77

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK:

The ops at P40M did the entire contest with no memory keyer as too much RF got into the keyer they brought along to Aruba. They used the built-in keyer in K9VV's Icom. Not bad for 5200+ Q's.

Equipment at WB9HAD - TS-930's, Alpha 374A. Antennas: 80M - Full wave delta loop at 120' 160M - 1/2 wave dipole apex at 125', ends 75 feet off ground

"Sprints - The only thing that made these sprints fun was all the local competition. Sure hope we can continue filling teams for the SMC. In SSB, I really lucked out on some mults. There is almost a larger element of luck, than skill, involved in these contests. ARRL DX - The ARRL DX tests, plainly put, suck. "Boring" is an exciting word for them. The reason is obvious - only Caribbean stations want to get on and try to work US stations all weekend. Activity levels show it. I'd like to see them become slightly modified IARU RS tests. The RS would be a really fun contest in March and February." - AH2U

Welcome to new member Al Brooks, K9XR. Kent Winrich ex-N9CWR is now NI9U.

For sale: Ameritron AL-80 amp with 10M and contest fan (factory option) less than 15 hours. ATR-15 tuner 1500W lighted. Ameritron RCS-4 4 position remote coax switch. MFJ 482 memory keyer. IC215 with 7 xtal pairs and box. Contact John KJ7K 312-369-9138.

THE CONTEST ROUNDTABLE conducted by Gary Sutcliffe W9XT

Are you burned out from all the contests this season? Have you decided that there is something that you could do to your station to make it all a bit easier? Well here are some hints on station layout from K9RS, AC9C, and NA9D. One or another of these guys seems to be the Illinois winner in every contest, so I guess that they know what they are talking about.

First here is what Steve, NA9D has to say about station engineering: "I am really big on station "ergonomics." After a few SS's at W9YT, I realized how uncomfortable things could be after 20 hours. Some of this stuff I got from a talk W3LPL gave at Dayton on the subject in 1983.

"I custom built the console. There are no legs to get in the way of my feet. My chair is on wheels and has an adjustable spring loaded back. This prevents backaches.

"My key is on the left. When I was young I taught myself to send left handed. I write with my right hand, and really recommend sending with the left. The keyer is on the right, with the buttons easy to get at.

"Above the R4C's are an audio switch box, rotor control, wattmeter and antenna switch, all easy to reach. Things are set up to make each device be closest to the rig it is hooked to.

"The KW's are above the T4XC's. One Drake pair is always on 40, the other switches between bands. The station is designed for domestic contesting.

"The microphone is on a boom with a Heil cartridge. I would rather have a headset, but this limits the earphones you can have. I use VOX on CW and a footswitch on phone.

"My dupesheet is on the right side, in front of the right-most T4XC. I put it as close as I can without getting into the writing area so I don't have to turn my head very much. Extra papers (logs, etc.) are kept on the third level above the R4C so they are easy to get at.

"Sometimes on CW I will put a small footstool under the table so I can keep changing my posture. For long contests I keep a cooler right below the station with soda, fruit drinks and sandwiches.

"The clock (digital of course) is kept right on the R4C's. It is one of those with local and GMT clocks. It is really easy to see.

"One drawback of my station is it is hard to get at the back of the radios. This should be easy to do for emergencies."

Steve has obviously spent a good deal of time planning his station setup. I wonder what he has planned for the station he will be setting up in Wisconsin this summer with K9EC. I have a feeling I won't like the answer! (3 towers, 3 Drake lines, 3 KW's - ed.)

Ray, K9RS, sent along these thoughts: "Station layout is just too complicated to cover everything - so I'll just cover my current set-up. Sometimes I change it daily!

"I usually use the C-line and 2K-4 on 40 only and band switch the 830 and MLA-2500 for 80, 20, 15, and 10. I use a footswitch and Heil headset on phone (the Heil headphones aren't very good though) and three footswitches controlling 3 of the CK-2 memories. The 830 has a 40M bandstop filter on front of it's front end and the C-line RX has a 40M band pass ahead of it to keep from getting too much RF into the front ends."

I usually hear operators in each contest that sound like they are sending with their left foot - I guess that Ray actually does with his footswitch controlled keyer. How about writing something up about your filters? They could be real useful for field day.

The following was sent to me via packet from Mike, AC9C: "My whole station layout is based on the fact that I write and send CW with my right hand. I put all controls that I will need when I am writing and sending on the left side of the radio, such as the rotor control box, antenna switch (primarily for when I have more than one antenna on a band). The wattmeter is on the shelf above the radio. The radios sit back far enough from the edge of the table so I can write easily (rest my elbow on the table). The placement of the amplifier is not critical because I only play with it when I change bands.

"My chair is an office chair with no arms (so I won't catch any stray cables on the arms), and that I can adjust the height. The chair has rollers on it so it is easy to roll around the shack.

"The mic is mounted on a boom and is activated by a foot switch.

"I have a small refrigerator next to the ham table that has snacks and beverages in it, and a roll of paper towels on it in case I spill anything.

"I have three pair of headphones that I alternate every few hours so my ears aren't bruised when the contest is over."

I want to thank Mike, Ray and Steve for taking the time to send their ideas. I hope that I will hear from some of the other members in future columns.

Now that it is starting to look a bit like spring, as everyone knows, a young ham's fancy turns to ... you guessed it: Antennas! How about sending in your ideas for antennas that will work well for you. We all know that stacked Yagis work well, but everyone has had an antenna that was a bit out of the ordinary that works well. K9RS's 80 meter vertical described in *The Black Hole* a few months ago is a good example. If you have a small yard and have managed to squeeze a lot of antennas into it, send that in too. With your ideas, we all can spend a productive off-season growing our antenna farm.

Send to: Gary Sutcliffe W9XT
Rte 1 Box 196
Neosho WI 53059

Next topic: What antennas have worked well from W9 land for you?

What topics would you like to see covered in the future?

A LOOK AT CONTESTING FROM GUAM de AH2U

We are delighted to have Dave Patton, AH2U, give us a blow by blow view of contesting from Guam. Dave was stationed there with the Navy twice and operated several contests from Guam. Before he left Illinois he was better known as KJ9W. Dave is presently a SMC member and lives in Streamwood, Illinois.

Part 1 follows with the conclusion to be published in the next issue of *THE BLACK HOLE*.

I returned to Guam for my second tour of duty in August of 1984, and was greatly anticipating the approaching contest season. I had armed myself with a TS-930S, a TS-430S, and a TL-922, with a backup of a KWM2A. At my disposal for antenna's were a 7 el Log periodic at 40', and single dipoles for the low bands at 65'. Bob-KD7P, Joel-KG6DX, and I got together 2 weeks before the WW for a strategy meeting. The year before, Bob had easily won the world on 15 mono, and this year with conditions dropping, Bob wanted to do a 20 mono. Joel wanted to use his big monobander on 15, so he took that slot. There was only one thing I had wanted to do since I had been a ham, and that was to operate single-op, all-band from someplace like this, and that was to be my category. Also, seeing as this was the year CQ tried team contesting, we decided to combine with OH6JW and T32AF (who later didn't claim team status) and submit a team entry. After the results were published, it turned out we were one of only two teams registered. So much for team contesting.

The big weekend rolled around, and sure enough, so did a typhoon. It hit on Thursday and lasted through Friday morning. We had taken Bob's antennas down in anticipation, but mine had to rough it out. I also was called into work and got stuck there for 17 hours. Luckily, with Guam being over the dateline, the test didn't start until Saturday morning. This gave us just enough time to get Bob's antennas back up, and repair mine. The LP had twisted around past its stop, and the 40 meter element was bent all to heck, but the rotor had no indicator anyway, and I wasn't going to use it on 40. After the contest, I was really disappointed with the performance of the LP. I knew it basically had no gain, but it had no F/B either. The 75 and 160 antenna had been blown off the telephone pole, and that took quite a while to straighten out and put back up. Eventually we were back in operation. So after 30 hours straight, I got 6 hours of sleep before the contest. That was all I would get for the next 52 hours.

Contest morning. Conditions are weird. Quiet, yet decent. On 15, I exchange with George at N5AU and Jeff at K4VX. Good levels, and when you deal with these giants, you have to feed their ego. They and a couple of other fives, got into a fight over who was louder out in Guam. Out and away that morning, it was VX. The big moment arrives, and I start the test off on 10. Only spend 7 minutes there. Manage to work three 6's, so at least I have zone 3 in case the band never opens again. Off to run 15. Immediate JA pile-up. 40 Q's the first 8 minutes. HSOA calls in at 0029. They haven't been real active, and I'm glad they're on. First hour ends at 175. Starting on ten hurt. 2nd hour better: 190. Very few stateside stations yet. Receiver is overwhelmed with JA's. 3rd and 4th hours same, and band is shifting west. It's already 2 PM here. Several YB's in log along with UJ8, UM9, and 9M2, throw in PY on the longpath.

Run back to 10 at 0400Z and immediately bag VS6, H44, DU, and UAO. This band is really hot. 40 JA's in a row, and then add VQ9, VU2, UL7, HZ, HL, UM9, VK6, and JD1. God is this fun! I bet the guys stateside are wondering where I am. 218 hour on 10. Back to 15. I'll return to 10 tomorrow.

The 930 is fantastic. These 5 second band changes really kick butt. 15 still producing JA's, but EU should be in by now. Nothing but a YU, JT1, and RF0. Abruptly 15 closes down. Hit 20

for the 1st time at 0613Z. 1047 Q's already after 6 hours. Find Bob immediately, and he's ecstatic. The longpath over South America was great. With his antenna maybe. I work pretty well into SA and a few sparse EU's on the longpath. Luck out on an HBO, and stop to spend a couple of minutes calling C31, G3 and F6. Lucky I did, for they were the only ones I heard during the entire test. Lots of Pacific on. ZK2, T2, 3D2, F08, and T32, all are easy Q's.

Hit 40 at 0813Z. Conditions sound great. I am limited to 7.075 - 7.100 here. Going to be hard to make Q's, but connect immediately with VK9MR and other garden stuff. Start running JA's. They are extremely loud. The stateside guys have found me, and are yelling on my frequency to listen up. "Jeez, I just got here, don't they know that?" First W in on 40: K6DR, then comes KP4BZ. That's a tough one here. KORF incredibly loud, and then AU. The W's run out quickly. At least the ones I can hear. It's still too early for any East coast stuff. N4RJ shows up in the midst of a bunch of 6's, and they sure were loud. Not a bad start on 40.

75 is producing big immediately too. KORF first in log, and then W6CCF who is 30 over 9. Bunch of mults. Terry's group at VP2VCW, and that's another tough one for zone 27. T2ADE on my fourth band. Chris is just playing around. Hey, now we're going East. There's VX with a big signal. Make a sked for 160. KFOH with a great signal, and then come a bunch of 4's. Band is all south. QRM is intense, and I leave the band. I know others were calling, just couldn't hear them. Need a beverage bad. 160 produces ZL, VK, and P29 the first night. What a waste of time. KSUR was in, but not a confirmed contact.

Back to 40, where the band is loaded. Absolutely no open slots in my small band, so tune through the US band. Not very loud, but there are the tireless. Unfortunately they are all listening below my band edge. They lose. Go back down and land right on top of broadcast on 7.085. Call CQ for 2 minutes, and then notch out the carrier. Just as expected. White noise from Japan. 3 hours later, and with about 600 JA's in log, I realize that was the best I have ever done on 40. Even threw in a few stateside guys when they hollered on my frequency to listen up. "Who says being a lid doesn't pay off?" JT1AD is following me around the bands. Worked Chadra on 75 too. That is nice of him. I talk to him often. He usually has me listen for his friends. Almost always JTO's, who must be visiting Russians. KORF dupes me. They must have run out of JA's. No nines worked yet. The black hole is solidly in force.

1530Z and I go back to 75, and start whaling on the JA's there. VK9M and XX9 in log, as the bands start dying out. At 4:30 AM here, the bands are really quiet. Not too much to be worked. Even the JA's have dispersed. Strange. Only 10 per hour during the 2000Z and 2100Z hours. Manage to work only one EU on 75- OH1RY. And after seeing his antenna in the results, I know why. Heard many others, but they didn't reciprocate. FROFLO goes in the log on 40 and 75. He's weak both places. Conditions must have dropped bad. Off the low bands for 15 at 2100Z.

This morning opening is the only time I can work the Carribean on 15. It's a short opening, and I must be swift. Unfortunately, all the guys are running huge piles of W's. Can't break through for anything. Gonna have to find help...Enlist KS7T. Got Fred to break the pile-ups for me and tell them they had a zone 27 calling them. Worked great. VP2V, XE, HP1, PJ2,

and TG9 all are happy to hear my weak signal. Now it was off to the races. It was almost 24 hours into the test. The 6's are lined up, and go in easily. Hey! There's K1ZX, and some other 4's. Maybe it'll come around here. KG6DX already has 1700 Q's on 15. Maybe I should have went single band. Finally the band moves a little north. There's NOGA, and K4VX, and ohmigod- a nine! K9DT found me. Great. Also in come KQ9D, and KR9B. Don't know where the "heavy's" are. "Yes I do know", I proclaim to myself. They don't want to waste their time working me. They already worked Joel. Figures, now I am losing Q's. I start feeling dejected as the first day comes to the end. 24 hours to the tune of 2529 QSO's. I feel a little better after that tally. The rate is a lot slower today. The casual ops are out. My 4th JD1 goes in the log on 15, and then when HZ1AB rolls in at S-9, I know I am done with stateside. It wasn't a long opening. Tune around a bit at 0345Z, and throw in UI9, VU2, VS6, and an XX9 for good measure.

Off to 20, and hopefully a better longpath than yesterday. Wow. The band is into California, so I run a page of 6's, and 7's too. Work some Pacific, and start in on the mults. The long path is there. UZ6, UF6, and a 3D6 all call in. I start begging for longpath only, and am greeted by 5Z4DE and a big, but weak, pile-up. UB, OE, DA and EA6 among the good ones. Then some lid started talking on top of me. He's close, probably a JA, so I clearly state that I want only EU. BY1QH says he's sorry, and wants a QSO anyway. Feeling very powerful, I tell him to take a hike and find me later! Naw, not really, I forgive him and put China in the log. Tune around a bit and find VK9ND rag-chewing, so I break in and beg some more. Get Norfolk in. This is great. In KROY's terminology, "searching and poaching", it works fine. Start back on 15, and tune through the band once. Immediately in the first 25 kc, I nail UH9, 5W1, FROFLO, and the incomparable operator of XU1SS. She was doing great. Only wish I could have dragged zone 26 off 15 meters. Satisfied with this, I close off the night on 15 with a page of JA's, and a lone European; Lucky IOLY was loud enough to make it into my log. Another guy following me around has been KX6LA, and we exchange again on 15 before I leave for 20, and then 160 for the early opening.

The Society of Midwest Contesters
c/o Steve Dubberstein NA9D
812 Larsen Avenue
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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