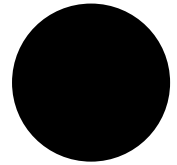


The Black Hole



Official Journal of The Society of Midwest Contesters

Volume XIV Issue 1

March 2000

Upcoming Activities

Helvetia DX Contest
April 22-23

DX YL to NA YL SSB
April 26-28

NE, FL, and ONT QSO Parties
April 29-30

CT and MA QSO Parties
May 6-7

Ten-Ten Contest CW
May 6-7

County Hunters CW
May 6-7

NV and OR QSO Parties
May 13-14

European Sprint
May 20

Dayton Hamvention
May 20-21

Texas QSO Party
May 20-21

CQ WPX CW
May 27-28

WRTC 2000 July 8-9

From the Prez

by Keith Morehouse, W9RM

Another contest season is winding down and, once again, SMC ranks toward the top in every major competition. Not only do we consistently have members post scores in the Top Ten boxes from within the US, we also continue to have great results from 'members at large', all over the world.

The time has come to change leadership. Having been part of the 'management team' for over 10 years, at many posts, including Editor, Sec/Treas and President, I've watched SMC grow from a handful of active members to the current roster of over 110. Now, I feel it's time for new blood to have an active roll in steering the clubs course in the coming Century. I strongly urge that members who have yet to have input in club direction place themselves on the Presidential ballot. I believe a fresh outlook, together with the strong team of volunteers currently in the support positions, will allow SMC to grow into the premier contesting organization in North America.

I request that those who wish to be placed on the ballot for SMC President make themselves known to the Secretary, Gary, K9MMS, by May 1st, 2000. Campaigning can take place until the 'polls' open on May 1st. We will accept ballots by mail or email, whatever Gary decides, until May 15th. The winner will be announced May 16th, in time for Dayton that week.

It's been a pleasure to be associated with so many great contesters and I'll enjoy watching the club progress from the sidelines.

Sunspot Cycle Information *de Don, K9UQN*

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

The Black Hole



The Black Hole is published six times per year by The Society of Midwest Contesters. Permission for use of the materials is hereby granted on the sole condition that credit is given to the source of those materials.

EDITORS

Brian Maves, K9QQ & Brian Smith, KI0MB

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

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Honolulu, HI 96818

Membership in **The Society of Midwest Contesters** is open to all persons with a bona-fied interest in amateur radio contesting. Dues are \$10.00 US per calendar year. For more information contact one of the following officers:

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SMC Badges



KX9X
SEAN KUTZKO

SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS

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.

W9SMC

Official Callsign
of

The Society of Midwest Contesters

SMC Web Page: www.ProbeElectronics.com/smc
SMC Reflector: smc@qth.com (members only)

Articles and score rumors are welcome and needed for The Black Hole. We can accept material in any of the following formats.

- 1) MS-DOS disks in most popular word processing formats.
- 2) MS-DOS disks in ASCII format.
- 3) MS-PUBLISHER files
- 4) E-mail: maves@aloha.net
- 5) Hard copy (preferrably typed)

HF2V 160 Mods

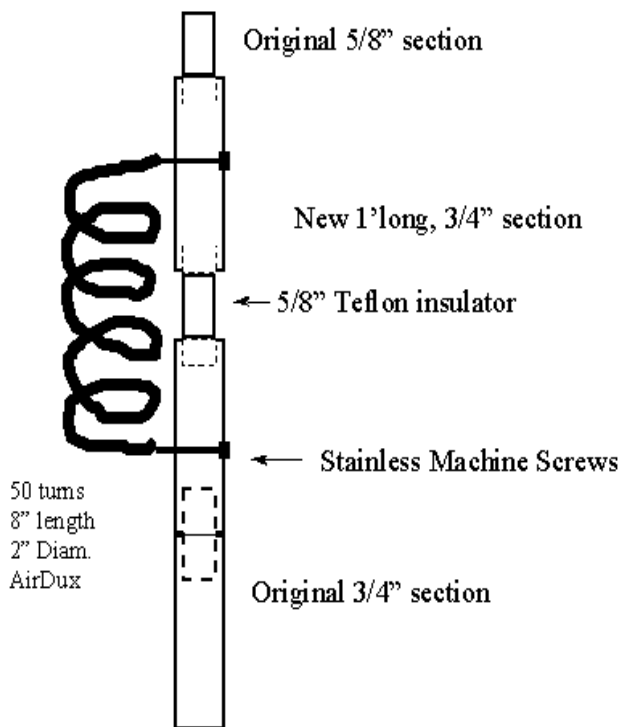
reprinted from web, Gerry, VE6LB

There isn't a lot of science behind the Mod. I read about the higher efficiency and greater bandwidth of short verticals by moving as much of the loading as high as possible as well as adding as much capacity hat as possible. I didn't try any other changes (larger coil) as mentioned in the Mods.

My experience was that the bandwidth was wider and that I was able to break pile-ups that I simple couldn't before (had to wait until there where no other callers and then I'd sometimes get through).

I've worked DXCC on 160 with this antenna (and 800 watts), the first 50 or so with the stock antenna (with the 160 kit) and the rest with the modification as shown here. The last 50 where a lot easier

This modification took me from having to wait until the pile up thinned out so I was the "last caller" to where I have been successful in breaking pileups near the front end. The HF2V does not perform well on 80/40 anymore but is useable through a tuner. This HF2V is ground mounted in the clear for 40' all around and has 15-32' buried radials and 4-4'



Tubing split with hacksaw and secured with hose clamps

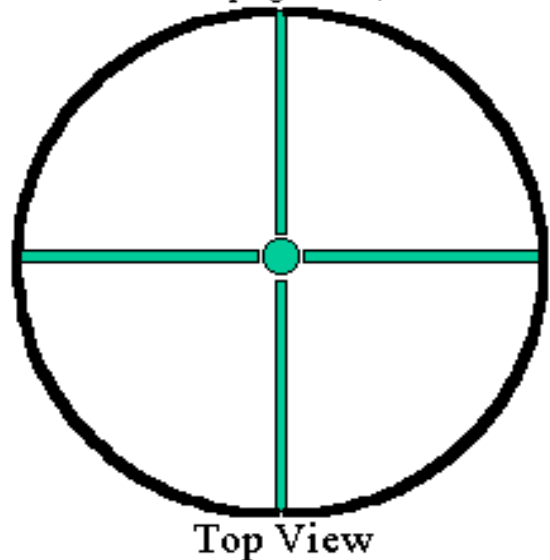
ground rods at the base. The bandwidth is about 25 kHz at 3:1 (double the original). I also added a 50PF remote tuned variable capacitor (very wide spaced plates as the voltage here is very high) across the 160 base coupling capacitors. This allows me to swing the resonance from 1.800 to 1.860. After this modification, the antenna was retuned to resonance

on 160 by shortint out about 3 turns of the base loading capacitor. The antenna will still self support after this mod but I guy mine at 8' due to the strong winds here.

4 support rods made from 3/8"
aluminum flat rod 1/16" thick
18" long with a 1" bend. Fastened to the antenna
with a hose clamp.

 Side View

Heavy Aluminum wire (ground)
(I used 4 pieces and fastened to each rod
with self tapping screws)



I also did the previous mod plus added 7 feet of 3/4" at teh same place as the coil was added. This worked even better but it was very mechanically unstable. I guyed it at 8 and 16 feet but it still tended to buckle. If it were guyed in three places it would be OK. i found that the majority of the improvement came from the near top loading and did not go back to the longer configuration.

I also added a small top hat as shown here. A bigger one would likely add more performance but I was concerned about wind loading in the minimal guyed configuration I'm using. The Top Hat is mounted about 5' above the coil on the 5/8" section. The way this antenna is now it is not visually disturbing (to my wife or neighbors and performs reasonably well. Additional height or guys would make it more visible.

I intend to try a larger coil (more turns and larger diameter)

WIQP Secret Weapon

By Lou Pekus, K9LU

As some of you already know I did very well operating mobile in the Wisconsin QSO party. I made 480 contacts during the 7-hour event! This was my best QSO rate ever for any contest, including operating from the home station.

I had a “secret weapon”!

Some time ago I was sent a complimentary issue of the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) magazine because of a review that appeared in the magazine on the Bulldog key.

In the magazine was an article by Guy Watkins, G3ARQ, an engineer for Marconi Engineering. The article described a “Phase Shift Injector” which claimed to enhance the radiated power of small antennas to the performance of a dipole. Shifting the phase of a transmitters output and re-injecting it to the antenna accomplishes this. However, because efficiency drops as power increases or as the antenna approaches the size of a

W9SMC Club Call Stats

by: Jonesy, KC9TV

Total QSOs: 5579

WAS Totals (States)

DXCC Totals (Countries)

Mixed: 48 **CW:** 50

Mixed: 104 **CW:** 50 **SSB:** 97

160m: 48

160m: 8

80m: 8

80m: 6

40m: 41

40m: 31

20m: 29

20m: 95

15m: 18

15m: 7

10m: 23

10m: 24



half wave dipole it is only useful under certain conditions, like mobile installations and apartment installations with small antennas. Peak efficiency of the PSI occurs at 100 watts or less and decreases at higher power levels. Above 400 watts the PSI is of little value. It also would not be particularly useful for QRP portable operation because of its size. The PSI unit is 3' long and about 4" in diameter.

At the last minute, on Saturday before the WIQP, I decided to throw a PSI unit together. It takes about \$15.00 worth of parts, mostly heavy wire, copper tubing and some 4" diameter PVC pipe. My finished unit looked very

homemade but all in all went together with ease. The hardest part was building the “phase injector module” which is the heart of the unit. I made some slight modifications to reduce the building time, which was about 3 hours.

The photo shows the finished PSI unit in the back of my pick up truck.

I have posted additional information and pictures on my web site. The address for the information is <http://www.amateurradioproducts.com/007.htm>. Check it out.

From the Editor

by Brian, K9QQ/WH7Z

What a great time to be in the SMC. We're picking up a new member or two every month. Hardcore participation in the contests is at a level I can't remember seeing in quite a while. Look at the NAQP CW team entries or ARRL DX scores later in this issue. Finally, K9ZO and K7BV will proudly represent the SMC at WRTC 2000 in just a few months.

I'm looking forward to working with Brian, KI0MB, putting together this newsletter every couple of months. As we get the hang of it, I think we'll be able to keep up the quality product provided by Mike, K9NW, over the last few years.

With the internet, there is a wealth of information to fill these pages, but to keep them truly relevant to the club, we need input from you too. So, token pitch, please consider writing something—anything—for the newsletter. I appreciated the response I got from my initial call for authors on the reflector. I hope you all can find the time to write something.

For the many who probably don't know me, here's a quick bio. I started contesting in the early 80's, in Northern Illinois with my good friend, KS9O (now N4KM). I'm a charter member, own Volume 1, Issue 1 of the Blackhole, and have never let my membership lapse. The start of my 14 year USAF career took me out of Northern Illinois in 85, and my closest point of approach since then was a 3 year tour in the St Louis area.

I've spent almost my entire contesting experience guest oping at multi ops. My only SOAB effort was from Japan, as JH7AFR in the 1997 ARRL DX SSB. Here in Hawaii, I've been part of the KH7R M/M team. And in my best individual effort to date, I set a new Oceanic record operating SB 40mtrs in the 1999 WPX SSB.

I firmly believe the midwest grows some of the best



SMC Welcomes

Join us in welcoming the following new members:

K9NR	Don Kerouac	Kankakee, IL
N4TZ	Terry Zivney	Middletown, IN
K0OU	Steven Lufcy	Raytown, MO
WM9M/	Tom Drake	Hammond, LA

contesters in the hobby. It's a combination of the well developed ears, steadfast concentration, and strong work ethic needed to milk every QSO out of the bands from the midwest. Trust me, I've seen ops from all over. They can certainly work a pileup, but they can't work the bands like someone from the Blackhole!

WRTC Donations

from CQ-Contest

Hello to all:

Tine (S50A) thought I was sitting around too much in my old age and decided that I needed something to do, so I would not get better than him at contesting. He chose to give me the job of fundraising in the US for WRTC 2000.

In this capacity, I hereby request that all of you dig down into your pockets and show the Slovenians the gratitude that we all feel toward them for undertaking such a monumental task. Their website at <http://wrtc2000.bit.si> is very informative, well laid out and all of the preparation work I have seen is top notch.

Because of all my memorable experiences from WRTC '90 and '96, I am eagerly looking forward to WRTC 2000 as I am sure you are. I am very excited about the site of the forthcoming event. I have visited the city of Bled, in Slovenia, and can attest to its beauty and to the hospitality of the Slovenians. I hope to see all of your smiling faces there in July of 2000.

Since the event is being held in Europe, we might have trouble getting US corporations involved with donations. I think it is necessary for every one of us to contribute toward the immense cost of hosting WRTC 2000. This will ensure that sufficient funds are available for the Slovenians to make the event all they wish it to be.

Donations in excess of \$250 may be submitted via a directed contribution to the Northern California DX Foundation, earmarked "WRTC 2000" and sent to Bruce Butler W6OSP, 4220 Chardonnay Ct., Napa, CA 94558.

Contributions under \$250 or deductible business donations may be sent to Carl Cook AI6V/P49V, 2191 Empire Ave., Brentwood, CA 94513.

I am looking forward to receiving your contributions to this wonderful cause.

73, Carl Cook AI6V/P49V

AI6V@AOL.com

New Member Profile

relayed by Lou Pekus

Please welcome Terry Zivney from Middletown IN to the SMC.

I was first licensed in 1961 and was WB9BXX until 1976. I really got active at W9YH in the late 60s, handling traffic and avoiding classes. My limited operating is mostly CW and I like DX contests now that I have an antenna, When I was younger, living in Illinois with a piece of wire, CD parties and SS were more like it!

I just got an OMNI VI+ at the end of October - boy, it's amazing what fun computer logging and computer controlled rig (or is it rig-controlled computers) add to the contesting experience. Still have my Corsair II and trying to figure out how to make this two radio thing work out. Someday I will have to put 240V in the shack so I can fire up the old Titan amp (NCL2000 backup) which hasn't been used since I left Wisconsin in 1988.

I have a well-guyed 120' Rohn 45 tower with: 5 el 48' boom 20, 2el cushcraft 40m at 121', 5 el 15 and 6 el 10 share a 38' boom @ 130' at the moment. I have two more of the 10/15 antenna design @ 45' and 75' fixed on Europe and one more at 25' fixed SE. I own four ring rotors which I hope to get up this summer - the three lower 10/15 antennas will be at 40', 70', and 100' and I have the aluminum for another 5el 20 to go at 61'. The tower location is in a hay field (the house is in woods) so I have about 500' of coax to the antenna junctions! Another project for this year is to put in some hardline! I have enough 7/8" heliax to put in two runs. I work verrrry slowly and am deathly afraid of height. I do virtually all my own antenna work (designing, building and climbing) so it took five years between pouring concrete to firing up on 20m! I am a college professor, so maybe I also think too much.

Middletown Indiana is about 30 miles NE of Mike, W9RE. Having lived and operated in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, and Texas, as well as Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana, I can really appreciate the term Black Hole. However, I must confess that my beliefs as a youngster that Indiana (an Eastern time zone state) was on the East Coast were not that far off.

The 20/40 meter antenna is the same one I had in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin in the mid 80's. Operating from Indiana with low power is better than being in Wisconsin was with high power! Of course, operating with my current antennas from Indiana is similar to using my I 8AVT in Maryland or Texas!

CAC Happenings

Hi Guys

The following was given to the CAC to discuss as an addition to the SS operating categories. I didn't get an directive to discuss this outside of the CAC but I now see that it is a topic on CQ-CONTEST. Please drop me a note on what your feelings are on the subject. I will tally the information and report back to the CAC.

Thanks

Greg, K9IG

Central Div. CAC

"The Proposal: To create a new Sunday 8 hour Sprint category to be added to both the CW and SSB Editions of the 2000 Sweepstakes. The entrant in this category would select any continous 8 hour period between 1700 UTC and 0300 UTC Monday to operate in.

Supporting reasons to implement this class included in the proposal include: to boost QSO production which hasn't grown as the other Contests have.(CQWW) to keep interest up for the "Sunday doldrums" which often occur due to whatever reasons to interest the testers which don't enter due to Saturday work obligations which will increase participation overall."

NIND at <n1nd@arrl.org> or at (860) 594-0232.

10 Years Ago in the SMC

- George, K9CC, told us about working DXCC in 21/2 years—mobile.
- Our president, Dave, WO0G, wrote about KS9K's M/S win in the CQWW SSB, a phenomenal CQWW CW M/M effort at Lew's, K4VX, and lamented over the increasing advantage of the dense, east coast, packet network.
- We had pictures of the finishing touches of the KS9K antenna farm in Racine, WI.
- Ralph, K9ZO, told us how he got started in contesting.
- We received our **paper** rules, entry sheets, and logs for the 1990 WI QSO Party and ARRL DX contests.
- WO0G was at the top of every score summary from the fall contests, except for WWCW where W9RE took the top spot and Dave contributed to K4VX's 12.3M point, M/M, no packet effort.



SMC Score Rumors

CQWW 160 SSB Contest

Multi-op

K9NR	788	57	17	134,236
------	-----	----	----	---------

(K9NR, N9LCR, KF9IF)

Single-op

WB9Z	HP	1124	57	24	215,298
KD9SV	HP	724	55	13	113,764
K9HMB	HP	283	51	18	52,095
W9LYN	LP	190	41	4	19,440
KI9A	LP	200	38	5	18,877

CQWW 160 CW Contest

Multi-op

K9NR	837	56	184,764
------	-----	----	---------

(K9NR, K9CS, AK9F)

Single op

K9DX	HP	1019	56	46	312,324
------	----	------	----	----	---------

@K9HMB

WB9Z	HP	863	57	39	225,600
W9SMC	LP	417	49	4	48,177
K4XU	HP	300	50	9	47,023
NO9Z	Q	407	45	3	42,192
N9NE	Q	56	21	0	2,478
K9PG	Q	36	17		1,224

NAQP SSB Jan 00 Contest

Single op

K9XD	257,048	1014	254	10	IL (K9PG)
WD0T	218,466	954	229	10	SD
KI9A	177,834	831	214	10	IL
WE9V	167,790	799	210	8	WI
KE9I	149,736	734	204	10	IN
N9VVV	142,710	710	201		
N9PQU	126,488	652	194		WI
WT9U	106,225	607	175		
WO9S	105,984	576		10	IL
K0OU	73,786	467	158	8	MO
K9WX	34,272	288	119	7	IN
W9YS	28,250	250	113		IL
NS0B	5,800	100	58		MO
V31JP	1178				

Multiop

K9NS	453,738	1609	282	12	IL (K9PW, WV9T)
W9SMC	252,603	1143	221	11	WI (N9SD N9FH)

@N9FH

NAQP CW Contest

Overall, SMC'ers had a total of 1,691,088 points!

The teams came in as follows:

SMC#1 - 639,690

SMC#2 - 445,873

SMC#3 - 173,640

SMC#4 - 120,091

SMC#5 - 49,380

SMC #1 - 639,690

W9RE	500	200	100,000
K9XD	554	188	104,152 (K9YO)
K9AA	638	243	155,034 (K9PG)
N9CO	603	208	129,584
KJ9C	686	220	150,920

SMC #2 - 445,873

WT9U	611	195	119,145
N9FH	746	218	162,628
W0UY	555	192	106,560
WE9V	281	132	37,092
W9SMC	213	96	20,448 (K9GY)

SMC #3 - 173,640

N9SD	362	134	48,508
K9IG	431	184	79,304
KI9A	66	42	2,772
WD0T	180	100	18,000
N9JF	216	116	25,056

SMC #4 - 120,091

WI9WI	272	110	29,920
K9QC	503	172	86,516
KC9TV	85	43	3,655

SMC #5 - 49,380

K9KM	186	85	15,810
N9VVV	108	64	6,912
KA9FOX	100	50	5,000
WV9T	262	119	21,658

Other SMC scores:

K9LU	1,000	236	235,674 (multi)
KI0MB	168	85	14,280
NS0B	140	89	12,460

SMC Score Rumors

NA Sprint SSB Contest (Feb 2000)

K9XD	HP	357	58	IL	20,706	DLCT(K9PG)
NT1N	HP	332	56	CT	18,592	
K3CR	HP	330	55	PA	18,150	DLCT
(KB3AFT)						
@WA3FET						
WE9V	HP	334	50	WI	17,300	DLCT
W9RE	HP	346	50	IN	17,300	DLCT
AG9A		320	52	IL	16,640	DLCT
K9NW	HP	316	52	IN	16,432	DLCT
@K9UWA						
N9RV	HP	312	51	IN	15,912	DLCT
KA9FOX	HP	302	52	WI	15,704	DLCT
K9ZO		296	52	IL	15,392	DLCT
K8DX	HP	300	51	OH	15,300	DLCT
K0OU	HP	291	49	MO	14,259	
N9SD	LP	236	46+1		11,092	SMC #1
WO9S	HP	215	45+3	IL	10,320	SMC
WT9U	LP	205	45	IN	9,225	
KG9X	LP	169	42	IL	7,098	
K9WX	LP	130	36		4,810	

NA Sprint CW Contest (Feb 2000)

N9RV		355	53		18,815	NCC
AG9A		331	52		17,212	
K4XU	HP	342	50	OR	17,100	
K9AA	HP	305	55	WI	16,775	(K9PG)
@WE9V						
W9RE	HP	295	53	IN	15,635	
K9NW		311	50		15,550	
WD0T	HP	320	48	SD	15,360	SMC
@KF0FN						
NT1N	HP	306	50	CT	15,300	Dead Lizards
KA9FOX		278	51		14,178	
K9MMS	LP	220	48		10,560	
WX9U	LP	202	48		9,696	
N9SD	LP	218	40	WI	8,720	
WI9WI	HP	192	45	WI	8,540	
WT9U	LP	165	43		7,095	

Contest Propagation

Real time Aurora graph
 Real time K indices graph (NEW)
 Short historical WWV numbers graph
 Last and current cycle SSN numbers

<http://www.qsl.net/ct1boh/propagat.htm>

ARRL DX CW Contest

SOAB

W9RE	HP	3334	380		3,800,000	
K9MA	HP	2321	343		2,388,309	SMC
N9CK	HP	2053	355		2,185,380	SMC
K0GQ @K0OU	HP	1573	310		1,462,890	
KJ9C	LP	1456	317		1,384,656	
K9MMS	LP	1115	290		970,050	
KG9X	LP	941	307		863,898	
K9YA	LP	968	259		752,136	SMC
W9VU (WG9L)	HP	728	268		585,312	
WA9TPQ	LP	753	199		448,944	SMC
W9SZ	LP	612	228		418,608	
W9FX		543	206		335,574	
KA9FOX	QRP	274	140		115,080	
TI5N (K9NW)	HP	4707	333		4,702,293	
V47X (WT9U)	LP	3323	270		2,680,290	@V44NK

SOAB(A)

K9NR		1180	338		1,195,506	SMC
N9XX	LP	362	192		208,512	SMC

M/S

K9SD		2419	390		2,826,720	(K9SD, KI9A, KA0GGI)
WN9O		2024	375		2,200,000	

M/M

K9NS		6950	560		11,622,240	(AA9D, K9DX, K9HMB, K9PW, K9PPY, K9QVB, K9RS, KS9W, N9CO, W9RM, WV9T)
6D2X		8717	348		9,110,548	(K5KA, K5TSQ, K9PG, N5JA, N5RZ, N6ZZ, W5VX, XE2XD, XE2YNE, XE2YNS)

SOSB/10

K4VX (W9WI)		1800	103		556,200	
W9XG (K0RX)		1531	97		445,521	
WE9V	HP	726	95		206,340	

SOSB/15

NT1N		2141	107		687,261	
K9RO	QRP	319	83		79,431	
K9WX		155	56		26,040	

SMC Score Rumors

ARRL DX SSB Contest

W/VE SOAB					
W9RE	HP	3947	422	4,988,040	SMC
WB9Z	HP	3265	430	4,205,400	SMC
KI9A	HP	1302	278	1,085,868	
@KOLIR					
N4TZ	LP	1117	312	1,045,512	SMC
NT1N	HP	1144	270	920,970	
KIOMB	LP	514	205	315,495	SMC
K9YA	LP	543	188	306,252	SMC
W9LYN	LP	150	109	49,050	
W9GB	LP	86	65	16,575	
W/VE SOAB(A)					
K9NR	HP	1045	356	1,114,992	SMC
W09S	HP	857	227	583,617	SMC
N9PQU	HP	459	225	309,150	
W/VE M/S					
WN90	HP	2131	436	2,786,040	
WN90 & W9IU					
K00U	HP	688	229	472,656	

K00U & KB0RTH

W/VE M/2

K9XD HP 4204 446 5,624,956
(K9XD, JK3GAD, K9GY, K9PG, K9Y0, N9VVV)
6D2X LP 10702 351 11,269,206
(K2UA, K5TSQ, K9NW, W5VX, WE9V, XE2XD, XE2YNE, XE2YNS)

W/VE M/M

K9NS HP 7514 639 14,342,994
(K9DX, K9GS, K9HMB, K9PW, K9RO, K9RS, KS9W, N9FH, W9RM)

W/VE SOSB/10

KG9X HP 1836 122 663,192
W9XT HP 1641 116 571,068 SMC

TR-Log Users

If you are using TR-Log Logging Software, and have a Soundblaster-compatible sound card, SOUNDBLASTERDVP runs as a TSR and fully integrates with the program. It sounds great, and is free of charge. It does not work with CT or NA though. It can be downloaded at:

<http://fermi.la.asu.edu/w9cf/index.html>

Fire! Fire!

By Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

I was sitting there 5 minutes before the start (*ed. Of WIQP*). One radio was sitting on 40. The other on 75 phone. I was looking for a clear frequency on 40 to call CQ at the start. Suddenly the XYL come running down stairs screaming "the yard is on fire!"

I run outside to see a ring of fire about 20' in diameter centered on the tower away from the house. I run to get the hose, but it is obvious with all tall, dry grass in the field, and the wind that I won't be able to put it out. Karen calls the fire department. They show up about 10 minutes later with 4 trucks. By the time they get it out, about an acre of land has burned.

It appeared that my tuner that shunt feeds the tower on 80M arched over and started the fire. The fire destroyed the control cables and coax to that tower. It also destroyed a couple of PVC supports for my beverage antennas.

Otherwise I was pretty lucky. At that point I decided to forget the contest and went to my fish club meeting instead.

Hope you guys did better! 73 - Gary

Just a reminder....

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**Deadline for the next issue is
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The Society of Midwest Contesters

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