

The Black Hole

Official Journal of The Society of Midwest Contesters

Volume XIV Issue 2

June-July 2000

Upcoming Activities

WRTC 2000 July 8-9

**IARU Championships
July 8-9**

**CQ VHF Contest
July 8-9**

**NA RTTY QSO Party
July 15-16**

**RSGB IOTA Contest Mix
July 29-30**

**Russian RTTY WW Contest
July 29-30**

**ARRL NA QSO Party CW
Aug 5-6**

**ARRL UHF Contest Mix
Aug 5-6**

**SMC Picnic at K9ZO's QTH
Aug 12**

**ARRL NA QSO Party SSB
Aug 19-20**

**ARRL 10GHz Cumulative Mix
Aug 19-20**

**Summer QRP QSO Party Mix
Aug 27**

A WRTC Game Plan

by Eric, K9GY

I would think to start either on 20 or 15...I'd go with 20, and get some long haul stuff first. The VU, etc have been coming in on 20m around 1130z or so. Then switch to 15 after 0.5-1.5 hrs on 20m. Rate will determine the better choice...

Then probably end up staying on 15 most of the day with an occasional glance to 10 to see if anything is rocking yet.

Hold 15/10 until something like 21-22z, then start thinking about a shift to 20m again? Might be too late/early, depends...have to "read" the bands. If it's 00z and you haven't at least glanced at 40m, then do that. Although the sun is not setting in IL here until 0130z, you might catch some close in caribe?

At 0130z I would definitely be on 40, but if it's not making it, head back to 20. There is even a chance, depending on prop, that 15 might even be hopping at this late time? My 15 experience is somewhat limited due to antenna problems...

40 is (hopefully) going to be EU all the way from 0130-04/05z... Then the real band switching is going on...between 05-09z, kind of a slower time, but it's a good time to get the VK/ZL mults on 40/20. Around 08/09z start thinking about the Pacific more... JA, KH6, etc. Maybe get a good JA run going on 40/20.

From 09-12z, I'd concentrate on 20, unless you have something decent on 15 or 40.

Doesn't look like much on 80m, but try 04z on 80 for a W.Eu opening. Maybe AK on 80m around 10z. KH6 around 10-11z

But this is all rough drafts, gotta go with the flow, hi.

Given the family commitments and antenna situation, I'll most likely end up on 20m, but there are no single band awards for this contest, bummer. Has to be CW all-band.

Good Luck & hope to hear alot of you on.

73, Eric

The prop charts from the ARRL are a good 'guide'.
<http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/2000/07/mid.pdf>

The Black Hole



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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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N9NW

Norman Wald

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

Midwest Engraving

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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.w9smc.com
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)

From the Prez

by Paul Gentry, K9PG

Well, the passing of the torch has taken place. Surprisingly, there were only two people interested in running for office. Jon NA9D (ex KE9NA) is the new Secretary/Treasurer. Jon is replacing K9LU and K9MMS. Both Lou and Gary have been SMCers for many years - and will be for many more years to come - and both have done outstanding jobs! Thanks to both of you! I was the only one who wanted to take the job of President. I am taking over for Keith, W9RM, who has held an office in the SMC for as long as I can remember, and led the club for the past 2 years. We all owe him a big TU for the superb job that Keith has done leading us!

Keith has also hosted the SMC web site on his server at no charge for many years now. Once again, a boat load of gratitude goes out to Keith for letting us live in his home all these years! However, due to changes in Keith's internet access system, he will no longer be able to keep it on his server, so the SMC web site has to find a new home...which leads me right into the first thing that I'd like to bring up.

The idea of the SMC getting our own internet domain name for our web site has been talked about before. Unfortunately, smc.com, smc.org and smc.net are all taken. There are some other longer possibilities, but according to all the email feedback I got, www.w9smc.com seems to be what a majority of people want. There are a few who think that we should go to a site that works off of donations only, such as qsl.net. While this may be the cheaper route, by having our own domain name, we won't have to worry about moving it again, plus we'll have our own domain name! The cost involved with this is \$120 a year for 50mb of server space plus a one time \$35 setup fee. The site will be hosted on our own KA9FOX's server, qth.com. Being that Scott lets the SMC use his service server for our email reflector, in the overall scheme of things, this really isn't too expensive at all. Plus, we're keeping the SMC money within the SMC. So, by the time this is out, the SMC should be QRV on the web at www.w9smc.com.

Another thing that has been brought up in the past is putting the Black Hole on the web. With the help of our fine editor and web wizard Brian, this was done with the last issue! However, starting with this issue, the only people that will get a physical hard copy of The Black Hole are those members who either aren't on the internet yet (like WX9U, Phil is afraid of computers - hi) or who don't have an email address listed on the SMC roster, along with those members who specifically request a hard copy. If your email address is listed on the SMC web page and you'd still like to receive

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The Black Hole in the mail, please let our editor know. I've been told that the cost involved in producing and mailing

Propagation on Higher Frequencies

By K0FF (Copyright 2000 eHam.Net)

Everyone seems puzzled as to why conditions are not so hot on the upper frequencies during this "peak" of the sunspot cycle.

First of all, on the upper frequencies, DX occurs via F2 between the months of Sept thru April, for the Northern Hemisphere. We here in the midwest experienced our first F2 opening of this cycle on 6M on Nov 8th 1999. We were working 9J2BO with low power for 3 days in a row. Using a combination of Es-link-to-TEP, multihop Es and a little F2, I worked 34 DXCC countries on 6 in 1999, and was heard in several more. Europe, Africa, Central America, South America, Alaska, Hawaii, South Pacific..all this from Missouri, where we are farther from the DX by one hop than the coastal stations. What more can you expect from 6M? This band was specifically chosen over a proposed 42 Mc allotment, after WW2, by the ARRL, to supply us with a "challenge". That was their philosophy, and it worked. 42 Mc would have been "just another low band", per an article in QST, 1946.

In the summertime we see Es openings on 6 and 10, and these are not as intense during the peaks as they are during the nulls. In 95-96, we were tearing up 6M with European openings in June and July (4 hops for me).

Even during the peak months, there will be waxing and waning days. These occur on a 5 day and 27 day sub-cycle. This effect is more noticed on 6 than 10, as the MUF generally still goes above 30 Mc but not as high as 50. On 6 especially there are also specific times of the day that are better for specific paths, depending on your location, and has to do with the angle of the sun between you and the target DX. Also different types of propagation will arrive at different angles from the horizon, making the performance of the antenna a big factor. Most successful 6M ops have at least 2 antenna systems, one for Es (high angle) and one for F2 (low angle). I have 3 systems, and one is elevatable in its orientation to the horizon, and it and one other are changeable in

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Final Call for 2000 Dues!

The year is half over and some people still need to pay their 2000 dues. The upcoming picnic at Ralph's, K9ZO, would be a perfect opportunity for any stragglers to bring themselves up-to-date. If you won't make it, as always, you can drop a check payable to SMC in the mail to Jon Ogden, NA9D.

each issue is about \$130. Obviously, this would save the club quite a bit of money each year. This money will be put towards things like the new SMC web page, sponsoring more plaques, donating to various contesting events such as WRTC along with assisting our SMC Representative Ralph, K9ZO in getting t Slovenia! What another perfect lead in!

Ralph should be in Slovenia as you're reading this! Getting there and staying there isn't cheap! Therefore, after some discussion on the email reflector, the SMC will be donating \$300 directly to Ralph to assist him with his expenses. Ralph is incurring quite a large out-of-pocket expense for representing us. The least that we can do is help him ease the pain of the large Credit Card bills that are coming. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas about helping to raise some funds for the "Slovenia or Bust" fund, let your thoughts be known!

The SMC will also be donating \$100 to the overall WRTC fund.

We all wish Ralph and his partner Dennis K7BV the best of luck. Of course all of us want to help out Ralph and Dennis by getting on and working their team, but there is no way that we will know what call they are using unless they let us know by signaling an SMCer somehow, and doing so is strictly forbidden. Signaling someone so that they tell their club members to get on to work them gives that person/team an unfair advantage which pretty much defeats the purpose of WRTC in the first place. So, I would just encourage everyone to get on and work as many S5 stations as you can!

The SMC had a great showing in the North American QSO Parties and the Sprints in January and February! Mark your calendars now...the next NAQPs are rapidly approaching. Both are in August, CW is August 5 and SSB is August 19. The Sprints are also right around the corner. CW is Saturday night Sept 9 (10th zulu time) and SSB is Sept 16 (17th zulu time). As always, I'll be asking everyone to get on and help make some Qs in every contest. I'll still be making teams just like I have been doing for the past 300 years, the only stipulation to putting you on a team is that you send in your log.

And finally, remember years ago when we used to have a BBQ/picnic at K9ZO's? Well, on August 12, we'll be having another SMC picnic! Everyone is invited! Sure would be nice to have a big turnout. It'll start at around 11am and end around 7pm. The times are flexible... it depends on how much of a good time we're having. Bloomington is about 2 ½ hours south of Chicago. Directions are located elsewhere in this issue. I'm sure that Ralph will have lots of stories and pictures to share from his exploits in Slovenia! . It might not be a bad idea to

carpool to Ralph's from various large cities, like Chicago, Milwaukee and Indy. Any volunteers?

Hope to see a lot of you there!



Another SS Victory

By Paul, K9PG

We Did It Again! The SMC took first place in the medium category of the affiliated club competition! We edged out the Southern CA Contest Club by 177k points. Granted, we sent in 10 more logs than they did, but we still won and that's all that matters! Way to go everyone! Thanks for sending in your logs!

Big congrats goes out to all the SMCers who made the top ten in Sweepstakes! Two guys who are regulars in the top box made another showing in the CW version. AG9A took 10th spot in the B category operating from K4VX, and NT1N took top honors in the A category with a tribander and wires from his new CT hilltop QTH! The SSB contest brought quite a few SMCers into the top ten including myself. I was at WC4E and made 8th place in the B category. W0SD made his usual appearance, this time grabbing 6th spot. While there were no SMCers in the low power box, the QRP category saw 3 SMCers and another W9 non-SMCer making the top box! Congrats to KX9X, KI0MB and WE9V for taking 4th, 8th and 9th respectively! N9NE took 10th place. Does anyone know him? How come he's not a member? W9RM, K9PW and WV9T powered the Mt Frank Contesters (K9NS) to a second place finish in the multi op category! Not an easy thing to do! We also did quite well in the regional competition! Some Central Region CW scores of note include K9IG for making 5th place in his usual A category, along with K9DX, KE9I and WI9WI for making 2nd, 4th and 5th respectively in the B category. And in SSB, WB9Z took first place in the Central Region winning the Central Division High Power Plaque! K9LU (what's this.... Lou on SSB?) and K9BGL (who is finally on the

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height from as low as 12 feet to as high as 85 feet. I use a single 11 el at 105 feet as a reference. A good compromise 6M antenna is 5 to 9 elements at 55 feet. An ideal antenna would be two 5 to 9 element beams stacked at 48 and 60 feet, and have variable phasing. This would catch either Es or F2.

Also 6M prop is better on the downward side of the peak than it is on the upward side, so watch out for the next few years, for reports of spectacular DX being worked with low power on 6M.

I have followed these patterns for over 35 years and have come up with a "Magic Calendar" for 6M, that shows the

most likely days that DX may occur from my area, and use this to plan vacations, trips etc, with pretty good results... There is a lot more order to the supposed randomness of VHF DXing than generally recognized. (I include 10M in the term VHF as it has many of the same characteristics as 6, and indeed before the definitions were changed after WW@, anything above 30 Mc was considered UHF, so I guess 10M was truly VHF then..)

Remember 50.100 to 50.125 for INTERCONTINENTAL DX QSOs only.

ARRL NA QSO Parties

CW: Aug. 5-6 SSB: Aug. 19-20

Mark your calendars and contact K9PG to join an SMC Team today!

WRTC 2000 Teams and Referees

Nr Referee Team QRA LOC

- 1 9A2AA G3SXW / G4BUO JN75HV
- 2 DJ2YA K6LA / K5ZD JN65XP
- 3 DJ6QT IK2QEI / I2VXJ JN76IB
- 4 EA1AK F6BEE / F6FGZ JN86PR
- 5 HA0DU DL6FBL / DL1MFL JN66WA
- 6 I4UFH OL5Y / OK1QM JN75CS
- 7 IV3TAN K3NA / N6TV JN65XM
- 8 JE1JKL S50U / S51TA JN65UU
- 9 K1KI LU7DW / LW9EUJ JN75GT
- 10 K1VR VK4EMM / VK4XY JN75RX
- 11 K6NA PP5JR / PY2NY JN76JB
- 12 K7LXC 9A3A / 9A2AJ JN86OT
- 13 K9JF HA3OV / HA3NU JN86AO
- 14 KT3Y PY5CC / PY1KN JN76XN
- 15 N0AX OE2VEL / DL6FBL JN86CS
- 16 N2AA JH4NMT / JK3GAD JN76AE
- 17 N2GA RZ9UA / UA3DPX JN75RU
- 18 N2NC VE7SV / VA7RR JN86AP
- 19 N3RD DL2CC / DL5XL JN76TO
- 20 N5KO LY3BA / LY2BM JN66XA
- 21 N6KT S59A / S58A JN86DT
- 22 N7BG LY1DS / LY4AA JN86FM
- 23 OH0XX OM3BH / OM3RM JN86CQ
- 24 OK2RZ K9TM / N2IC JN76VN
- 25 OK2FD 5B4WN / 5B4LP JN75SX
- 26 ON4UN ZS6EZ / ZS4TX JN76IA
- 27 PY5EG K1AR / K1DG JN75KX

Nr Referee Team QRA LOC

- 28 RU1AA SP8NR / SP9HWN JN65VM
- 29 S50K UA9BA / RN9AO JN66WB
- 30 S51F N5TJ / K1TO JN75ST
- 31 S53EO EA7GTF / EA7KW JN65TM
- 32 S53Z KQ2M / W7WA JN65UM
- 33 S55OO N6IG / K4UEE JN66BX
- 34 S57AD K4BAI / K6LL JN66WD
- 35 S57AL K1ZM / N2NT JN76JB
- 36 S57AW K8NZ / W2GD JN76JC
- 37 S57U K9ZO / K7BV JN75OU
- 38 S59L ON4WW / ON6TT JN75HT
- 39 SM3CER UT5UGR / UU2JZ JN65TL
- 40 SM3DMP DL11AO / DL2MEH JN75AO
- 41 T97M YT7AD / YU7NU JN75IX
- 42 UA9MA 9A9A / 9A3GW JN86BT
- 43 UX1UA EA3NY / EA3KU JN66VD
- 44 VA7CW I5JHW / I5NSR JN76RE
- 45 VK2IA OH1EH / OH1NOA JN65WO
- 46 W0UN JA8RWU / JH3RHF JN76XI
- 47 W1FJ RA3AUU / RV1AW JN76QO
- 48 W6OAT UT4UZ / RW1AC JN76SQ
- 49 W6UM VE3BMV / VE3KZ JN75FT
- 50 YL2KL VE3EJ / VE7ZO JN86AU
- 51 YT6A N3AD / N3BB JN76CE
- 52 YT6T JM1CAX / JO1RUR JN76OE
- 53 YT3T WC4E / W0UA JN76OM

WOW! What A Contest!

by Paul, K9PG

One of the biggest problems, if not THE biggest problem, that we face here in the Midwest in the SSB Sprint, is that we never seem to get off to a big start like the southern guys and the west coasters. The perennial top tenners often have first hours over 100, mainly on 20m. Personally, I've never come close to a 100 hour in any Sprint - ever. As many of you know, over the last several years, I have tried to get a group of SMCers to start the Sprints on 40m, hoping to work each other before the band goes long. While it has worked with moderate success, there hasn't been more than a dozen people or so to work because most of them are on 20m, which is where all of the action is. Not this time! For the February 2000 running of the SSB Sprint, I put in a lot of time and effort into getting more Midwesterners (both SMCers and non-SMCers) and East coast guys on for the contest in general, emphasizing the 40m start. I hounded several dozen SMCers and asked several other Sprinters elsewhere to do the same with their clubs. Judging by the huge increase in scores this time around, I'd say that it paid off!

I set a goal of 325 x 50. If I got anywhere close to that, I'd be happy. I never would've imagined that I'd end up with second highest score of all time (which turned out to be the third highest score of all time thanks to KW8N who beat me by a mere 214 points - less than 4 Qs) and a new mult record!

My strategy was to spend as much time as possible on 40m at the start thinking that no matter when I end up QSYing to 20m, I'm going to be fresh meat. So the longer I spend on 40m, the better. I sat in front of the radio at about 2330z and tuned through the bands to see how they were. 20m was wide open to both coasts and 40m was in very good shape! I ran across HI3/W4DT in QSO with someone on 14.160, so I chimed in and gave him the brief rundown of the contest and he said he'd be happy to help and hung out there until 0000z. About 5 minutes before the start, YS1EJ shows up! So I

gave him the rundown of the contest and he also says that he'll be happy to help out too.

The clock strikes 0000z. My first 2 Qs were YS1EJ followed by HI3/W4DT. 2 DX mults, what a way to start! It took about 30 seconds longer than I had hoped to go through the exchanges - we know that every second counts in the Sprints - but it turned out to be well worth it! As soon as I was done, I flipped the audio switch and went to 40m where I immediately heard K9ZO. After a frantic first 10 minutes I had 29 Qs in the log ranging from W0UY in KS, K4WX in TN and AC0W in MN, to NT1N in CT and the reliable VT mult, KK1L. N8NA also showed up handing out DE to everyone! 40m was in great shape and loaded with activity! Other SMCers worked during the first 10 minutes include KE0FT, WE9V, KA9FOX, K9NW (in a Phone Sprint!!!!!!), K9LU, W9RE, K9JE, KI9A, AG9A and NT1N.

I left 40m for the first time at 0011z with 31 Qs in the log; all but the first 2 were on 40. I spent the next 25 minutes on 20m then went back and forth between 20m and 40m for the remainder of the first hour. At 0100z, I had 115 Qs in the log - 24 of those being with SMCers - 73 Qs on 20m and 42 Qs on 40m. This is by far the best start that I've ever had. Other than having some good mults call in as well as finding some on the second radio, the rest of the contest was relatively uneventful for me. My rate for the last three hours was 77, 73 and 93. The last hour of 93 seemed to be a bit above average. Some of the good mults include VE6EX, VE5MX, KL9A, W4OC in SC, V31JP (Tnx Joel!), WA2MCR in NY (worked NI2P later), VE3ZT - VE9WH and W5KL in AR (who gave me #2 at 0044z) all on 40m in a 2 minute span, followed by W1II in ME (who gave me #11 three minutes later), VP2MEG, 6D2X, K7VU in WY, VY1JA (Tnx J!), W0DB in NE, and the mult that broke the record, W7LR in MT! Bob gave me #11 at 0346z! My last QSO was with W4NTI at 0359z who gave me #91.

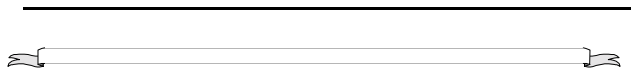
Here are some numbers to look at.

K9XD SSB Sprint Feb 2000 - K9PG op

HOUR	80m	40m	20m	TOTAL	ACCUM
0z	0	42	73		115
1z	1	40	36	77	192
2z	0	61	12	73	265
3z	83	10	0	93	358
TOTAL:	84	153	121		
Claimed 357 x 58 20,706pts					

- One QSO was taken away after log checking thanks to a busted name (I put Mike and his name was Ian - How'd that happen?)

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SMC Welcomes

Join us in welcoming the following new members:

N9MBK Robert Kramer Chicago, IL

N9LYN Renee Kramer Chicago, IL

N9NW Norman Wald Chicago, IL



- Final Score 356 x 58 20,648pts. This is the 3rd highest score of all time behind K7SS's 25,593 -- 449 x 57 in Feb 1993 (a record that will probably never be broken) and KW8N's 20,862 -- 366 x 57 Bob just had to pick *this* contest to do that!
- 58 mults is a new multiplier record.
- I had 55 band changes.

Believe it or not, I had some slow periods. There were twenty periods where I went between 1 and 2 minutes with out a Q, three periods between 2 and 3 minutes and two periods between 3 and 4 minutes without a Q. When you add that up, that's quite a bit of time!

In this contest alone, I worked a total of 32 different SMCers, which accounted for 68 QSOs, including one mult that I wouldn't have had otherwise thanks to KE0FT in IA, THANKS John! Hope you can get on in Sept also! I know that there were more SMCers on that I never tuned across! I also worked some 9s that aren't SMCers - W9YK, KG9X, W9FGH, KX9DX and N9RV.

All kinds of state records were shattered including the three W9 states! WE9V and KA9FOX battled it out in WI, but in the end Chad came out on top and broke the record that Scott set back in 1995. Chad ended up #9 overall and broke 300 Qs for the first time while Scott ended up just short of that barrier with 298 Qs. Myself and AG9A broke the IL record that Mark held, but thanks to a nearly perfect contest for me and the use of a great station, K9XD (K9PG op) now holds it. I finished at the #2 spot and finally broke 300 Qs while Mark, who breaks 300 Qs on a regular basis without breaking a sweat, set a new personal best and finished just out of the top ten. I think Mark did it with a 2-element tribander and wires from K9RS's QTH! Very impressive. Three people broke the old IN record! W9RE, K9NW (@K9UWA) and N9RV all broke that 13 year old record (which was held by W9RE) and all had over 300 Qs, but W9RE broke it by the most to retain his record and ended up in 10th spot for the second time in a row. By the way, what on Earth do we have to do to get N9RV to join the SMC? Don't make me beg you, Pat! Hey Pat... are you listening? Moving right along, finishing at #7 overall is one of the best ops on the planet and no stranger to any top ten box in any contest. NT1N, the man who has had more calls than Wilt Chamberlain had one night stands, broke the old CT record by over 2800 points. 17,875 is also a personal best for Dave! Other scores of note include that turned in by the ham formerly known as KE9NA. Jon logged 251 Qs in his first Sprint effort ever! Not a bad start. I'm sure that you'll be back for more in September, right Jon? K0OU set a personal best from MO, congrats Steve! Our WRTC rep K9ZO made his usual great showing, as did K9BGL. WO9S fell 16 points short of the 10,000 barrier. That's less than the point value one QSO! Great job Jon! The KS contingent of the SMC snuck into the Low Power Top Ten!

W0UY grabbed the 10th spot with just over 200 Qs in the log. Tom had a few ore Qs and one more mult than WT9U, but Jim finally broke the 200 QSO barrier! Way to go guys! Shoot for 225 next time! 4 SMCers in the High Power Top Ten and 1 in the Low Power Top Ten - WOW!

We also set a new team record of 166,372 points. The old record had been standing since 1989. Hey Steve... we definitely proved that Dead Lizards CAN Talk! Now we just have to prove that they CAN send CW. We almost did it this time, but finished second... next time! Maybe we should talk about retiring the Dead Lizards after we break the CW team record?

Again, I commend everyone on a great showing! A BIG THANKS to all the part timers that just got on for a while to hand out some points. Without the part time Sprinters, nobody would've done as well as they did! You were the difference in the contest! In order for the Sprinters who go all out to get the big QSO totals, there has to be people to work. There just aren't enough full time, all out serious Sprinters out there to get those big totals. It's the guys who get on and make 50 Qs and 100 Qs that are the difference. During the last two hours of the contest, I worked 65 people who gave me a QSO # of less than 100 including 20 during the last hour (WB9Z was one of those - his #3 at 0342z. Tnx Jerry!) It would be very interesting to see how other people's logs compare. I can't say it enough...every QSO counts!

Amongst all the praise, I must say that I am a little disappointed in one thing. I mentioned earlier that I logged 32

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New Member Profiles

relayed by Jon Ogden, NA9D

My name is Renee Kramer. I am 37 years old soon to be 38. I have been a ham since 1994 getting into the hobby as a Tech. I have recently upgraded tho to General and am having alot of fun on hf. I am married to Rob who is also a ham (N9MBK). We met on 2m, then met face to face, started dating, and in July of 1995 he proposed to me during a 2m net, we got married in November of that year. Some of the ham activities I enjoy most are: dxing, contesting, working tropo on 2m, Field Day, and just plain old chatting with ham friends on the radio. Some other things I enjoy are: the outdoors, camping, astronomy, photography, computers, drawing and reading. I am happy to belong to SMC and am looking forward to getting to know everyone.

73, Renee N9YLN

SMC Score Rumors

CQ WPX CW Contest

K9NW SOHP-15m 1598 678 2,836,752 (@ W0AIH)
K9NR SOHP-AB(a) 1467 599 2,185,751
N4TZ/9 SOLP-AB 1328 571 1,994,503
K9YO SOLP-AB(a) 1125 516 1,367,400 (@ K9XD)
K9JY SOHP-AB(TS) 822 409 911,661
K9UQN SOHP-AB(TS) 514 339 451,548
WT9U SOLP-AB 536 292 345,144
K9BG SOLP-AB 426 274 300,000
K9PG SOLP-AB(a) 334 334 270,540
KJ9C SOLP-AB 320 241 216,177
K9GY SOLP-20m 227 200 102,800
KI9A SOHP-AB 109 100 24,000
K9VV Fubar 1 1 1 (USA QSO)

ARRL VHF QSO Party

WB9Z SOHP EN60 560 239 173,514
K9NR SOHP EN61 140 72 11,304
K9PG SOLP EN62 74 29 2,146
K9PW SOLP EN52

BAND QSO QSO PTS GRIDS

50 340 340 128
144 188 188 40
222 63 126 23
432 101 202 32
903 22 66 14
1.2 33 99 19
2.3 13 52 9
3.4 10 40 9
5.7 11 44 10
10G 10 40 9
24G 0 0 0

Totals 791 1197 293 = 350,721

Equipment Description:

50 MHz FT726 200W 4 el @ 30'
144 MHz FT726 200W 19 el @ 25'
222 MHz TS820+conv 100W 18 el @ 20'
432 MHz FT726 100W 30 el @ 22'
903 MHz FT726+ no tune 10W 33 el @ 13'
1.3 GHz FT726+ no tune 10W 55 el @ 13'
2.3 GHz FT726+ no tune 10W 3' dish @ 10'
3.4 GHz FT726+ no tune 10W 3' dish @ 10'
5.7 GHz FT726+ no tune 5W 3' dish @ 10'
10 GHz FT726+ HB conv 3W 2' dish @ 8'
24 GHz FT726+ DB6NT 0.1W 2' dish @ 8'

Miscellaneous

NA9D

ARRL RTTY Round Up SOAB HP:
815 Qs, 97 Mults, 79,055 Points

NA Sprint SSB HP:
259 Q's, 49 Mults, 12,691 Points

CQ WPX SSB SOAB HP Tribander:
2068 Qs, 790 Mults, 4,223,340 Points

New Member Profiles

related by Jon Ogden, NA9D

I am honored to join SMC. I had heard of the organization, but until recently, didn't know how to join. I have been a ham since 1991. I have been contesting almost from day one. I discovered contesting during the 1991 CQWW phone test. I had only been on the air about 10 days at the time. Worked a whole bunch of stuff and was hooked. Since I was a Tech plus (until this year when I upgraded to General), all my contesting was on 10 meters. I did well almost immediately, finishing as the top tech in Illinois from 91-93 in the sweeps & 10 meters tests. In 1992 I was stunned when I received my certificate from the ARRL that I was the top SOLP phone Op in Illinois. I was running a 1/4 wave vertical & 50 watts. I beat all the guys with beams. I'm still waiting for the 1999 10 phone results. I had a decent score in that one as well.

I have been a DXer of almost everything for 30 years. Before becoming a ham I spent my time DXing on medium wave, longwave, TV, FM and shortwave. Mostly medium wave. I have web pages dedicated to medium wave & longwave, plus a whole bunch of TV DX photos. To reach my home page: <http://www.members.aol.com/rkdx/index.html> That will get you started. I am married to a ham, Renee N9YLN. We met on the air. We have an unusual problem, we both want to operate. As a result, Renee will operate contests portable from her mother's house. Otherwise we would interfere with each other.

73 de Robert Kramer N9MBK

internet) took 3rd and 4th spots. KE9I teamed up with his dad N9QX to take second place in the multi-op category, and right behind them was the WB9JBF (who?) multi-op in third place that included a couple SMCers.

Once again, a big KUDOS goes out to everyone who sent in a log! With the membership that we have now, which is rapidly approaching 150 and will hopefully continue to grow, it sure would be nice to see us make a run at the unlimited category! We won that category the first year that the SMC was formed in 1985 and there is no question in my mind that we can do it again! We've got the operators and the talent, everyone just needs to get on and do it! And of course, send in a log! Mark your calendars now! SS CW is the weekend of November 4-5 and SS SSB is the weekend of November 18-19. Even if you get on and make 10 QSOs, don't forget to send in your log! It doesn't take that long to do and every little bit helps!

SMC Picnic/BBQ

Come and join fellow SMCers at the QTH of K9ZO on **Saturday, August 12 at 11am**. This is the weekend of WAE, so if you feel compelled to do some operationg, feel free! Everyone is invited!

Directions to Ralph's are quite simple. From I-55/I-74 on the west side of Bloomington, exit at Market St West. Go about 1 1/2 miles west and you'll see his antennas. Make a right at the first light past the antennas, then make another right about 1 city block (200 feet) after that. Follow that road back til you see the antennas and park somewhere off of the street.

If you get lost, please call Ralph at 309-828-3190 and he'll talk you in. If anyone has 2 meters, someone will be monitoring 147.435 simplex.

Bring your appetite!

Wintelnetx Version 3.02

Version 3.02 is now available for download at:

<http://www.berkshire.net/~robbins/software.html>

This version includes one of the most requested features, the ability to send control characters from either the input line or the connect scripts. It also fixes some bugs that crept into the 3.00 version.

David Robbins K1TTT (ex KY1H)
k1ttt@berkshire.net or robbins@berkshire.net
<http://www.berkshire.net/~robbins/k1ttt.html>

different SMCers. Of those 32, 10 didn't send in a log. I can think of worse things than not sending in a log, but please guys...if you're going to get on at all, why not send in your log? I can't tell you how frustrating it is to organize all these teams only to find out that 1/3 of the team members didn't turn in their logs. Most of us have computer logging and most of us have the email. It doesn't take more than a few minutes to put your log in the acceptable format and email it in. Even if it's a handful of Qs, send it in. Not only does it help with log checking, but also I think it would look great to have 6 or 7 full SMC teams and a whole page W9s and W0s with "SMC" next to them listed in the results! Please guys.... always take the time to send in your log, especially if I put you on a team. If you don't want to be on a team, it is ok to not send in your log. But tellingme that you'll be on a team and then not sending in your log isn't fair to your teammates or me. If you've got any questions about where to send it, ask me and I'll point you in the right direction, or check out the NCJ website at "www.ncjweb.com". Everything you need to know about the Sprints and NAQPs is there.

We'll be doing the same thing for both modes in September so mark your calendars now! The CW Sprint is first this time around. See you on 40 meters at 2359z on Sat. Sept 9 for the CW Sprint and on Sat. Sept 16 at the same time for the SSB Sprint!

73 Paul K9PG

10 Years Ago in the SMC

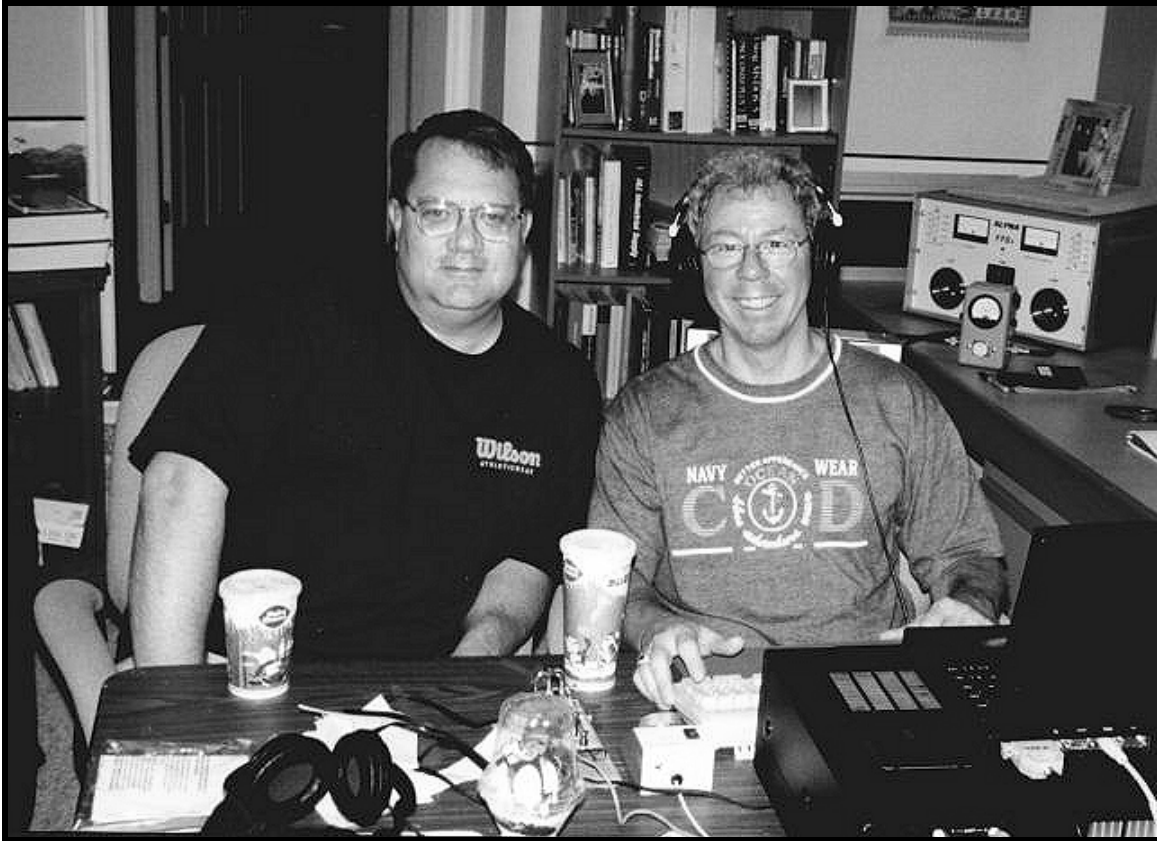
- Our president, Dave, WO0G, wrote about the SMC's top club score in SS 89. AA9A lead the club, with some new guy named Chad, WE9V, contributing a new division record on SSB.

- Mark, AG9A, and Mike, AC9C took over editor duties for the Blackhole.

- Mark, AG9A, had a great analysis of the Feb 90 CW Sprint, comparing logs from WO0G, AC9C, K9ZO, and AG9A. WO0G was the top scorer, finishing 8th overall in the contest. This was also the fifth highest score ever recorded by an SMCer for this contest.

- Everyone was getting ready for WRTC #1 in Seattle, with SMC member W9RE participating on the American





WRTC 2000
8 Jul (1200Z) through 9 Jul (1200Z)
Good luck Ralph and Dennis!



NEW NCJ Website

Friends,

I am pleased to announce that the new National Contest Journal website is now available for your enjoyment. Bruce Horn WA7BNM has labored for endless hours (away from his rig...) since late 1999 bringing this new site on-line. We trust you will enjoy the fruits of his efforts.

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

Please feel free to let Bruce and I know what you think of the new site -- comments and suggestions are always welcome. Our email addresses are; k7bv@aol.com and bhorn@hornucopia.com.

73 Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV

Editor - National Contest Journal

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

WRTC 2000 Teammate for K9ZO - SMC

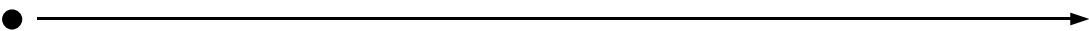
<http://wrtc2000.bit.si/>

Who are they?



Can you identify these SMC members past and present that gathered at Ralph's, K9ZO, a few years ago? Use the space table below to write their names and/or call signs, going left to right. Start with the farthest left in #1 and end with the farthest right in #14. Bring your answers to Ralph's on Aug. 12th and see how you did.

1. _____	8. _____
2. _____	9. _____
3. _____	10. _____
4. _____	11. _____
5. _____	12. _____
6. _____	13. _____
7. _____	14. _____





Member/New Member Information/Update Form

Name: _____

Call: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send updates to:

Lou Petkus, K9LU
2 S 872 Wagner Road
Batavia, IL 60510

**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!**

**Deadline for the next issue is
August 1st**

The Society of Midwest Contesters

*Brian Maves, K9QQ
11 Worchester Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96818*

FIRST CLASS MAIL