

THE BLACK HOLE



ARRL SS Unlimited Team Champs 2000, 2001, 2002

Official Journal of The Society of Midwest Contesters

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December 2007

2007 Sep VHF Recap

By Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA

Now that the Phone Sweeps is over, I can put out a proper summary of this year's June contest (But please get your Sweeps logs in by the deadlines!).

I want to thank everyone who entered a log with the SMC in this year's June VHF. Because of your efforts, we won the unlimited gavel. This is no small feat, as we are the first club in the nation to make the unlimited in June, and the only club ever to have won unlimited titles on both HF and VHF.

Our VHF ops anchored the club with tremendous activity. Bob, K2DRH again won a national title in the SOLP. Jerry, WB9Z placed 7th in the nation in SOHP.

K9NS was 3rd in the M-L. WB9BZK won the Division as a rover. K9AKS set an Indiana section record in QRP.

KE9I won the Indiana section on HP. Several others contributed sizable points, including: N2BJ, K9JK, N9TF, K9ZO, N9AKR, K9CT, and W9XA. Several well-established VHF ops even became SMC members largely to help us win the gavel, including

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Upcoming Contests

NCCC Sprint, CW	0330Z-0400Z, Dec 7, 14, 21, 28
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 8 to 2400Z, Dec 9
Stew Perry TBC	1500Z, Dec 29 to 1500Z, Dec 30
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 5 to 2400Z, Jan 6
NAQP, CW	1800Z, Jan 12 to 0600Z, Jan 13
NAQP, SSB	1800Z, Jan 19 to 0600Z, Jan 20
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 26 to 2359Z, Jan 27
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 2
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 3
CQ WW RTTY WPX	0000Z, Feb 9 to 2400Z, Feb 10
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 10
ARRL DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 23 to 2359Z, Feb 24
NAQP, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 23 to 0600Z, Feb 24

SMC Dayton Suite 2007

By Mike, AJ9C

I know it was mentioned earlier this year by the now ex-suite organizers that they are stepping out of the business for 2008. To date there has not even been a casual inquiry regarding taking over/organizing the suite for 2008 and beyond.

My question for the membership is this: For those of you that go to Dayton should the SMC continue having our own suite? If you think we should continue then would you be willing to organize/run such a suite?

The room is reserved for next year but it is not a paid reservation. It will be cancelled prior to Paul having it put on his credit card this year.

Please contact AJ9C via email if you can organize this year's suite.

The Black Hole



The **Black Hole** is published monthly, September through June, 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.

EDITOR

Brian Maves, K9QQ

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

k9qq@arrl.net

Membership in **The Society of Midwest Contesters** is open to all persons with a bona-fied interest in amateur radio contesting. The club doesn't collect annual dues, but instead funds everything through member donations. For more information contact one of the following officers:

BOARD

Pat Barkey, N9RV
Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z
Mike Wetzel, W9RE
Scott Neader, KA9FOX
Kevin Kaufold, W9GKA
Zig Markowski, KM9M
Chad Kurszewski, WE9V
Paul Gentry, K9PG
Mark Obermann, AG9A
Ralph Bellas, K9ZO

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Zig Markowski, KM9M

CONTEST ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Vacant

AWARDS COORDINATOR

Chuck Schneebeil, KI9A

SMC Needs Your Financial Support

As one of the top contest clubs in the nation, we continue to sponsor plaques for a number of major contests including Sweepstakes, ARRL DX, CQWW, and CQWPX, as well as make monetary donations in the interest of promoting radio sporting.

A few years ago we decided to eliminate the formal dues of \$10 per year, and instead maintain funds through member donations. We encourage all members to consider making an annual donation to the club. Your generous donations allow us to continue to expand our support of radio sporting.

You can make your donation two ways:

1. Send a check, money order, or cash to:

Zig Markowski - KM9M
50 E. Eureka Drive
Lemont, IL 60439-3970

2. Use Paypal and email your donation to dues@w9smc.com.

W9SMC

Official Callsign
of
The Society of Midwest Contesters

SMC Web Page: <http://w9smc.com>

SMC Stuff

To get your SMC stuff, see the last page of the newsletter or visit the SMC website, <http://w9smc.com/merchandise.htm>



Badges

Order Today!



Shirts

(Continued from page 1)

W0FY, K9AKS, and WB8BZK. Many people to the north of the circle, such as KC9BQA, K9KL, and W9FZ, heard about our exploits and took great pains to actively hunt for our stations.

We faced absolutely dead-band conditions on 6-meters, so much so that we were afraid all the HF ops recruited to run this contest would simply turn off their radios, never to be heard from again. Many other clubs experienced declining logs this year, due to the adverse conditions. But our HF ops hung in there, and proved to be the key in taking the club over 50 log entries. In all, we had 23 logs from people who never before entered a VHF contest with the club. This was an incredible turn-out. Most of these new call signs on VHF were from very prominent HF ops - calls like W9RE, K9CC, K9BGL, WX9U, K9XD, KM9M, WI9WI, and so many others. The coordination between the club's HF and VHF ops was nothing short of amazing.

Our rallying cry for this event - "Now is the Time!" - was right on the mark. This contest has become a high point in the development of VHF abilities within the club. Now, to do it again! As we move towards preparations for next year's event, we should keep in mind that two other clubs (PVRC, Mt. Airy) could eventually muster enough forces to go unlimited. Thus, in future June contests, we must concentrate on quality as much as quantity. Among our experienced VHF ops, the question should be: what can we do to really crank out the points? Everyone's agenda should include new bands, bigger and higher antennas, more power, and sponsoring new VHF ops. Among the HF ops that entered this year, the question becomes: How can we get a small 6-meter beam in the air, instead of a wire? How about adding 2-meters? Better coax? The list goes on.

Let's start planning now. January VHF Sweeps is right around the corner. Then, the Spring VHF Sprints and the start of the Es season on 6. These events make great exercises to test out our equipment and improve our operating skills. Onto 2008 June.

ARRL SS Log Deadlines

ARRL SS CW: 5 Dec 07
SSCW@arrl.org

ARRL SS SSB: 19 Dec 07
SSPhone@arrl.org

A\$50 Beverage

By Randy Thompson, K5ZD

From YCCC Scuttlebutt #119, October, 1995

Ed. The prices for supplies may be a little more expensive 12 years later, but it's still a simple, inexpensive project to hear better on top band.

I built my first Beverage this past year. It was so easy I can't believe I lived without one. Here's how to do it:

Go to Home Depot (or other large hardware store) and buy a 500 ft roll #16 THHN or MTW wire. It's available in every color you can imagine for about \$15 per 500/ft roll. Also get two 8' ground rods.

Go to local feed store and get some electric fence insulators. This cost me about \$3.

Call your favorite radio dealer and order an ICE Beverage matching box. Cost: about \$30.

Go to Radio Shack and get a 400-600 ohm resistor. I actually used four (4) 2KW resistors in parallel.

Roll out the wire in the desired direction. Mount the fence insulators to convenient trees (my Beverage is not perfectly straight) about 7-9 feet up. Install a ground rod at each end. Connect one end of the wire to ground through the resistor. Connect the other end to the matching box (which is also grounded). Connect coax. Enjoy!

I did follow the conventional wisdom of sloping the ends down. I used 4 foot ground rods at each end. I only have room for a 500 foot run. W3LPL has pointed out that 580' might be a better length. It's simple to solder some more wire on.

This antenna makes 80 and 160 enjoyable. Less than \$50 to hear Europeans all summer on the LF bands seems like a good deal if you have the space!

When the antenna broke this summer, I used a split bolt connector to join the two pieces back together. You can find these for about \$1 in the electrical aisle of the Home Depot (or hardware store). No solder required!



SMC Area Spring NA SPRINT CW Records

Top 20 Scores

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mult	Score	Team	Area	Yr	Top 10
N9RV	Pat	137	144	89	370	52	19,240	DL	IN	02	2nd
N9RV	PAT	120	156	85	361	52	18,772	SMCCAT	IN	04	4th
N9RV	Pat	119	135	96	350	53	18,550	NCC	IN	00	6th
AG9A	CAT	110	164	78	352	52	18,304	SMCCAT1	IL	03	
N9RV	Pat	127	149	90	366	49	17,934	SMCCAT1	IN	03	
K9PG	Paul	99	166	76	341	52	17,732	SMCCAT1	IL	03	
K9NW	Mike	102	139	98	339	52	17,628	SMCCAT1	IN	03	
K9NW	Mike	126	130	93	349	50	17,450	MRRC	IN	02	
K9AA	Paul	112	147	73	332	52	17,450	DL	IL	02	
N9RV	Pat	117	147	90	354	48	16,992		IN	01	8th
K9XD	Dave	105	135	85	325	52	16,900	DLCS	IL	00	
(AG9A)											
K9AA	Paul	94	139	69	302	55	16,610	DLCS	WI	00	
(K9PG @ WE9V)											
AG9A	Mark	123	140	70	333	49	16,317	DL	IL	02	
AG9A	CAT	111	136	72	319	51	16,269	SMCCAT	IL	04	
K9NW	CAT	137	107	81	325	50	16,250	SMCCAT	IN	04	
W9RE	Mike	112	116	97	325	50	16,250	DL	IN	02	
K9XD	Dave	103	140	79	322	50	16,100		IL	01	
K9XD	Dave	99	126	94	319	50	15,950	DLCS	IL	99	10th
(W9QA)											
K9NW	Mike	97	117	102	310	50	15,500	MRRC	IN	00	
W9RE	Mike	100	105	103	308	50	15,400	SMCCAT1	IN	03	

Top 10 QSOs

Call	20	40	80	Total	Yr
N9RV	137	144	89	370	02
N9RV	127	149	90	366	03
N9RV	120	156	85	361	04
AG9A	110	164	78	352	03
N9RV	117	147	90	354	01
N9RV	119	135	96	350	00
K9NW	126	130	93	349	02
K4VX/0	136	123	89	348	90
(WO0G)					
K9PG	99	166	76	341	03
K9NW	102	139	98	339	03

Top 10 Mults

Call	Mults	Yr
K9AA	55	00
(K9PG)		
K9ZO	54	03
N9RV	53	00
W9RE	53	00
N9RV	52	02
K9AA	52	02
K9XD	52	00
(AG9A)		
AG9A	52	03
K9PG	52	03
K9NW	52	03
KA9FOX	52	03
N9RV	52	04

Top 10 SMC Teams

Team	Yr	Score	Place
SMC CAT#1	03	160,864	2nd Place
DLCS	00	151,852	2nd Place
DL	02	150,332	2nd Place
SMC-CAT	04	124,758	4th Place
SMC	94	96,590	2nd Place
DLCS	97	95,832	2nd Place
SMC #1	91	95,640	3rd Place
DLCS	99	92,054	3rd Place
SMC#1	02	86,195	10th Place
DLCS	96	85,127	

Top 10 Finishers

Call	Place	Yr
K4VX/0	8th	90
(WO0G)		
K4VX/0	7th	96
K9XD		
(W9QA)		
K9NW	10th	99
N9RV	6th	00
N9RV	8th	01
N9RV	2nd	02
N9RV	4th	04

NA SPRINT CW

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SMC Area Feb NA SPRINT SSB Records

Top 20 Scores

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mult	Score	Team	Area	Yr	Top 10
K9XD	Dave	120	153	83	356	58	20,648	DLCT	IL	00	2nd
(K9PG)											
K9PG	Paul	124	158	86	368	56	20,608	DLCT	IL	02	1st
K9PG	Paul	98	162	151	411	46	18,906	DL	IL	04	1st
(@WB9Z)											
K9PG	Paul	117	154	86	357	51	18,207	DLCT	IL	03	1st
WE9V	Chad	109	142	81	332	53	17,596	DLCT	WI	00	9th
K9XD	Dave	104	152	106	362	48	17,376	DLCT	IL	01	3rd
W9RE	Mike	115	126	102	343	50	17,150	DLCT	IN	00	10th
W9RE	Mike	123	124	108	355	48	17,040	DLCT	IN	01	5th
KA9FOX	Scott	119	122	84	325	51	16,575	DLCT	WI	02	3rd
AG9A	Mark	103	141	71	315	52	16,380	DLCT	IL	00	
K9NW	Mike	107	124	81	312	52	16,224	DLCT	IN	00	
K9NW	Mike	111	129	91	331	48	15,888	DLCT	IN	01	9th
K4VX	Dave	130	130	74	334	47	15,698	UMRFFC	MO	92	8th
(AA9AK)											
N9RV	Pat	98	124	98	310	51	15,810	DLCT	IN	00	
W9RE	MIKE	100	118	131	349	44	15,356	DL	IN	04	5th
WO0G	Dave	120	133	64	317	49	15,533	SMC #2	MO	91	3rd
K9PG	Paul	63	147	125	335	46	15,410	SMC #1	IL	05	4th
(at WB9Z)											
KA9FOX	Scott	99	104	95	298	51	15,198	DLCT	WI	00	
KA9FOX	Scott	101	118	106	325	46	14,950	DLCT	WI	01	
AG9A	Mark	134	101	81	316	46	14,852	BK4Z	IL	92	

Top 10 QSOs

Call	20	40	80	Total	Yr
K9PG	98	162	151	411	04
(@WB9Z)					
K9PG	124	158	86	368	02
K9XD	104	152	106	362	01
K9PG	117	154	86	357	03
K9XD	120	153	83	356	00
W9RE	123	124	108	355	01
W9RE	100	118	131	349	04
W9RE	115	126	102	343	00
K9PG	63	147	125	335	05
(@WB9Z)					
K4VX	130	130	74	334	92
(AA9AK)					

Top 10 SMC Teams

Team	Yr	Score	Place
DLCT	00	166,372	1st Place
DLCT	01	154,109	1st Place
DLCT	02	150,714	1st Place
DL	04	136,860	1st Place
DLCT	03	110,135	1st Place
SMC#1	05	100,204	2nd Place
DLCT	94	96,998	1st Place
SMC #1	91	92,675	1st Place
SMC #1	01	76,499	4th Place
DLCT	96	71,992	2nd Place

Top 10 Finishers

Call	Place	Yr
WO0G	3rd	91
AC9C	6th	91
K4VX	8th	92
(AA9AK)		
AG9A	8th	94
K9ZO	10th	94
AG9A	4th	95
KA9FOX	10th	95
K4VX	3rd	96
AG9A	2nd	97
K9XD	2nd	00
(K9PG)		
WE9V	9th	00

Top 10 Finishers

Call	Place	Yr
W9RE	10th	00
K9XD	3rd	01
W9RE	5th	01
K9NW	9th	01
K9PG	1st	02
KA9FOX	3rd	02
K9PG	1st	04
(@WB9Z)		
W9RE	5th	04
K9PG	4th	05
(@WB9Z)		
KA9FOX	1st	07
W9RE	2nd	07

Top 10 Mults

Call	Mults	Yr
K9XD	58	00
(K9PG)		
K9PG	56	02
WE9V	53	00
K9ZO	53	00
K4VX	53	96
AG9A	52	00
K9NW	52	00
K9NW	52	02
N9RV	51	00
KA9FOX	51	00
K9ZO	51	89
KA9FOX	51	02
K9PG	51	03

NA SPRINT SSB

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SMC Stuff

SMC Clip-on Badge

by NVSA

The SMC logo appears at the top-center of the badge in black and white. Your call sign, first name and city & state appear in dark blue. The SMC name badge as shown with the slot & strap with swivel alligator clip, but there are other choices.

Price: \$14.50 (includes s&h).

Order now from **The SignMan**

Visit his full color web page to see other items you can get with the SMC Logo:

www.thesignman.com/color/



KC9FD

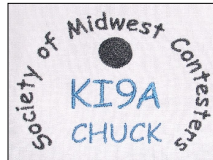
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST

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

Midwest Engraving
6657 N. Sidney Place
Glendale, WI 53209

Ph: 414-228-8654
Fax: 414-228-8655

Be sure to note that it is for a "Black Hole" badge and please allow a couple weeks for delivery.



SMC Shirts

SMC short-sleeve Polo shirts are available in two styles: white shirt with "SMC" in black and "name and call" in blue lettering as shown below, or red shirt with black lettering. The cost is \$20, including shipping. You can email your orders to AD9P@swbell.net (Al) or NOUXQ@swbell.net (Sandy)



Member/New Member Information/ Update Form

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Zig Markowski - KM9M
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Lemont, IL 60439-3970

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