

THE BLACK HOLE



ARRL SS Unlimited Team Champs 2000, 2001, 2002

Official Journal of The Society of Midwest Contesters

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September 2008

President's ZO-fest Recap

By Mike Kasrich, AJ9C

As many of you read on the reflector the SMC had a midsummer event in August hosted by Ralph K9ZO. There has been discussion about how to keep the flame of competition burning and to promote more club identification. What came to mind on the board is what is old should be new again. Enter ZOfest.

I remember back in the late 80's early 90's going down to Bloomington and having a mid summer picnic at Ralph's. He took the ball and ran with it. The Bellas have a new facility for their Landscape business and this became the site for the meeting. Kevin W9GKA had suggested a picnic/annual meeting so that the members could have a face to face and hear about club business. With that as the backdrop things just exploded from there. A couple of folks volunteered to give some presentations and then a few others wanted to exchange some items they had for sale. VOILA, Mini convention!

August 9th started out a bit dreary and rainy but the trip from the far reaches of the circle were worth the effort. We had representation from all points in the circle and even a few that were outside. Presentations ranged from the practical (grounding and test

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Contest Calendar

NCCC Sprint	Friday nights	0230Z-03Z
NA Sprint CW	Sep 7	00Z-04Z
ARRL SepVHF QP	Sep 13-15	18Z-03Z
NA Sprint SSB	Sep 14	00Z-04Z
ARRL EME	Sep 20-21	00Z- 2359Z
ARRL 10 GHz and Up	Sep 20 -21	06L-24L
144 MHz Fall Sprint	Sep 22	19L-23L
CQ WW DX RTTY	Sep 27-28	00Z-24Z
222 MHz Fall Sprint	Sep 30	19L-23L
NA Sprint RTTY	Oct 12	00Z-04Z
CQWW DX SSB	Oct 25-28	00Z-24Z
CQWW DX CW	Nov 29-30	00Z-24Z

Sweepstakes – 60 Days to Go !!!

By Kevin, W9GKA

We have had a good response so far in lining up stations for this year's Sweepstakes. The list of stations to date that we know of starts on page 5. We also have several stations that may be available for use. Please check in with me if you need or want a place to operate from.

And don't forget the Multi / Single opportunity that NCCC developed. It is quite legal under the current rules. Just bring your own transmitter to the 2nd location. This tactic can quickly generate many new points for the club at the 2nd location.

Also, forward your station abilities, as we are developing an HF Ops List. Your antennas, antenna height, power levels,

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The Black Hole



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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
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Ralph Bellas, K9ZO

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Zig Markowski, KM9M

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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. Checks or money orders made payable to SMC:

SMC

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

2. Use Paypal and email your donation to donation@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

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Today!**



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CQVHFWW From EN67

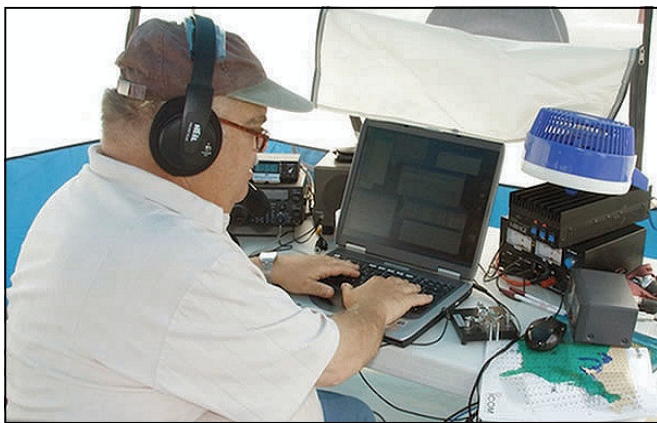
By Larry Reiser, N9LR

K9CT Craig and Larry N9LR fellow SMCers from Central Illinois spent July 20 and 21st on top of Mt Brockway in EN67 for the CQVHFWW contest. We operated 6 and 2 meters running a ICOM 756Pro III on 6 and a Yaesu FT847 and a brick on 2. Our antennas were a M2 5 element Yagi on 6 and a 10 element Yagi on 2. The most recognizable



M2 5 el six meter beam on portable, crank-up tower and 10 el 2 meter beam on a mast.

and unusual feature included a 50 foot crank-up fully mobile and portable tower on wheels. This incredible mobile monster brought many a strange look from motorists passing by on I-39 as we traveled north. We used a more conventional military mast for 2 meters.



Larry, N9LR, at the operating position.

Unfortunately, conditions were not as good as we hoped. We completed about 200 Q's on six and 35 Q's on

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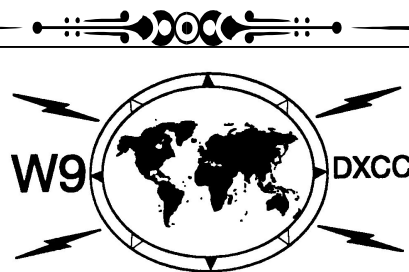
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equipment) to operational TI9KK. For those of you that were there Craig's presentation was quite the insight into what not to do on a Dxpedition. Kevin presented a statistical analysis showing that suspots may effect our enthusiasm for getting on the air for a contest. It was also a good opportunity to get to know some about the members that you might not otherwise know. For instance Chuck KI9A is a competition grade BBQ purveyor. He brought a sample of his cooking for the crowd to enjoy during lunch. To say the least it was excellent as evidenced by the empty bowl.

The SMC presented to Kevin W9GKA the Unlimited Gavel we won for the 2007 June VHF Qso Party based upon his organization efforts. Jerry WB9Z was presented with the gavel for the 2007 ARRL 160m contest for having his station available year in and year out for Multi ops during this contest. Jerry added to that by recognizing the operators in attendance that make the multi possible. We truly are a club of Champions.

Connie and Ralph provided (this time around) eats and beverages for the crowd. I don't think anyone went away hungry that's for sure. This event will be held next year and hopefully for many more to come. Start saving up your gas money, gathering items for sale and building those projects. We want to hear from you, we need to hear from you. This event became the the HUGE success it was because people stepped up to the plate and offered to make presentations, bring items and set up demos. Lets do it all again in 2009!

See pictures on pages 7-8.



56th W9DXCC DX Convention & Banquet

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2008

Holiday Inn Chicago
Elk Grove, Illinois

SMC Friday Night gathering at Weber Grill
For details, contact Eric, K9GY

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Craig, K9CT, at the operating position.

2. Some short Es on six saved the gridpedition from being a bust but 2 was quiet with our longest efforts into northern Illinois in EN52 and EN41. All the equipment worked flawlessly and the Honda generator ran for 30 hours on 5 gallons of gas. Not bad considering gas was almost \$5 a gallon in this remote section of the northwoods.

The best and most unexpected surprise occurred when we filled up with gas in Copper Harbor at the mountains base. The gas station owner took one look at the mobile tower trailer and said he was going to tell all the local hams we were in town. Sure enough about a dozen locals visited during the weekend bringing breakfast, lunch and dinner. The local fair included a dish called Pasties. A combination of meat and vegetables in a heavy flour wrap. Hot food was welcome on the cool cloudy mountain top. We even had a visitor at midnight on Saturday pop in to see what meteor scatter and WSJT were all about.

We hope we encouraged the locals to get on the air and take advantage of the rare grids up north. We had a great time and will be going again. Perhaps for the June contest. Try putting a radio in the car and activating a grid near home that may not be active. You will not regret the effort.



rigs, etc are all very useful in determining current abilities of club members. No station is too small for inclusion.

Please keep the replies coming. Go SMC

Sweepstakes 2008 Committments

Call	CW	PH		Call	CW	PH
AA9DY	PT	PT		N9AVY		maybe
AD9P	yes	yes		N9BOR	some	
AF9J	yes	yes		N9BT	yes	yes
AJ9C	FT	FT		N9BX	yes	yes
K0CA	yes			N9CO	yes	PT
K0PG	yes?	yes?		N9EP	yes	yes
K8GU	yes	yes		N9FC	yes	yes
K8IAT		yes		N9FH	some	
K9AY	yes	maybe		N9GTC	yes	yes
K9BF	yes	yes		N9JF		yes
K9BGL	yes	yes		N9KHR	yes	yes
K9CC	FT	PT		N9LAH	yes	prob
K9CS	yes	PT		N9LF	yes	yes
K9CT	yes	yes		N9MSG	yes	yes
K9CW	yes			N9NA	yes	yes
K9DUR	maybe			N9PUZ	PT	PT
K9GY	FT	PT		N9RJX		yes
K9IG	yes	yes		N9TF	yes	yes
K9IJ	yes			N9UC	yes	yes
K9JE	yes	yes		N9VVS		maybe
K9MOT	yes	yes		N9XX	yes	maybe
K9MV		maybe		N9YH		yes
K9NR	FT	yes		NF9V	yes	yes
K9OR	yes	yes		NG9R		yes
K9PG	yes	yes		W0JPL	prob	prob
K9SD	yes	yes		W0TT	yes	yes
K9SG		yes		W3HDH	yes	yes ?
K9UQN	yes	yes		W9DEW		maybe
K9WX	prob	prob		W9GIG		FT

Sweepstakes 2008 Commitments (cont.)

Call	CW	PH		Call	CW	PH
K9XE	yes			W9GKA	yes	yes
K9ZA	yes	yes		W9IL	yes	yes
K9ZA	yes	yes		W9IL	yes	yes
K9ZO	PT	PT		W9IU	yes	yes
K9ZT	yes			W9LO	yes	yes
KB9CYL		yes		W9RE	FT	PT
KB9WQJ		yes		W9RN	yes	yes
KC9IL		casual		W9SE	yes	yes
KD9AC		yes		W9SZ	yes	yes
KG9IL		maybe		W9XA	yes	
KG9N	yes	yes		W9XT	yes	yes
KI0Y	yes	yes		W9YS	yes	yes
KI9A		FT		WA9IVH		yes
KJ9C	FT	FT		WB8BZK		yes
KK9K				WB9Z	yes	yes
KK9V	PT	PT		WE9V	yes	yes
KM9M	yes	yes		WG9L	yes	
KX9DX	yes	yes		WO9S	yes	yes
N7MB	PT	PT		WT9U	yes	yes
				WW9R	yes	yes

ARRL Sweepstakes 2008
CW November 1st—3rd
SSB November 15th—17th

ZO-fest 2008



08/09/2008



The host, Ralph, K9ZO



The president, Mike, AJ9C



Jerry, WB9Z, accepts the gavel for the ARRL 160 Club victory



Kevin, W9GKA, accepts the gavel for the ARRL VHF club victory



SMC Stuff

SMC Clip-on Badge

by NV5A

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.

Member/New Member Information/ Update Form

Name: _____

Call: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send updates to:

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

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!**



The Society of Midwest Contesters

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