

# THE BLACK HOLE



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## Adventures in SO2R Land - Part 3

By Bill Axelrod ND9E

So there I was, one Saturday morning running Europeans on 20 meters using my second radio and amp when BLAM! Mr. Murphy returned and amidst the smell of burning components my used FT-1000MP bit the dust.....

So, off to the repair shop went the transceiver. Back to the simple life. A one radio ham shack. To fill the time while waiting for my transceiver to come back we had some storms visit my little mountain side. Microbursts well over 100 mph to be exact.

I guess I realized that something was wrong when I was working outside and saw my stacked beams spinning around like a pin-wheel. Once I figured out that the rotator controller wasn't stuck in a rotating position I knew I had big troubles in the worst place, on top of the tower. Time passed. I replaced my rotator, repaired the cut control cable, and got back to business.

In the interim I started the systems engineering thinking that I should have done in the beginning. It was all starting to come together in my mind, then on paper, then into action.

In came the electrician to install two additional dedicated 115VAC outlets in my shack along with a second 220 VAC outlet for the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Rock the QSO Parties

In an effort to increase SMC activity, we're encouraging everyone to actively participate in state QSO parties in 2009. A calendar listing the state QSO parties for 2009 has been posted on the SMC website. Let's make a concerted effort to rock the state QSO parties.

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Wisconsin QSO Party	18Z, Mar 15 to 01Z, Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party	18Z, Mar 20 to 02Z, Mar 22
Missouri QSO Party	18Z, Apr 4 to 05Z, Apr 5 and 18Z-24Z, Apr 5, 2009

## The VHF Column – August and September Results; Other News

By Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA

**August Results.** The UHF Contest experienced tremendous conditions in the Midwest. Several records personal highs occurred in the event. Bob, K2DRH, set a Central Division record in the SOLP at 317,772 points. This is almost double high prior high score in August of 174 K + set in 2004. The KI9R multi also set the Central Division record at 85,860 points. KI9R was composed of N9UM, K9IJ, KG9IL. Zack, W9SZ, operated SOLP in the contest, scoring 28,992 points. This is the 8th highest score in Illinois in the history of the UHF contest, which is no small feat since K2DRH has all seven scores

# 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.

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Brian Maves, K9QQ

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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. For more information contact one of the following officers:

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## SMC Dues

Dues are \$10 a year, but may be waived based on the fulfillment of participation requirements:

**In the SMC SS circle:** Make 100 total Sweepstakes QSOs over the two weekends and submit your score(s) for "Society of Midwest Contesters." In addition, submit one other score for an SMC club competition in one of the following contests: ARRL VHF, 160m, or 10m, NAQP, CQWW, ARRL DX, etc.

**Outside of the SMC SS circle:** Submit two scores per year for SMC club or team competition in any of the six NAQPS and four Sprints.

Qualifying scores are those submitted during the calendar year prior to January 1.

Donations are still accepted

You can make your payment 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](mailto:dues@w9smc.com).

# W9SMC

Callsign of Society of Midwest Contesters

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

## SMC Stuff

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



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*(Continued from page 1)*

second amp. I made some upgrades to my grounding system.

But never once did I realize that I was on the road to a SO2R installation. I just wanted to have enough redundancy to be able to stay on the air after Murphy's visit. That was my second big mistake. I was thinking small and did not consider the notion of requirements creep. And creep they did.

But, it was summer and I was on the air enjoying myself. The next round of decisions seemed far away.

Later I learned that among the failed modules was one that Yaesu no longer supported nor carried. There was no repairing that second radio. I couldn't find a parts radio with the working parts I needed. Oh well, my primary radio was 7 years old and no longer a "top-of-the-line" model. So, the urge to buy something new and better and sexier built up and up and up.

After countless hours of reading manufactures specs, reviews, and discussions with fellow PVRCers, I decided to buy a new transceiver, an Orion II. Wow! Great transceiver. On the operating desk it went. Back to switching cables, A-B tests, and a zillion transceiver adjustments I went. The Orion became my main radio. It was better for most things, but the FT-1000MP MK V had the edge in others. And this is where I finally came to the realization that I wanted a SO2R station. Way late in the process.

Research time again. I devoured whatever I could find on the web about SO2R station setups. Lots of good stuff on the PVRC site and much more on K8ND's SO2R web site ([http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/SO2R/K8ND\\_SO2R.htm](http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/SO2R/K8ND_SO2R.htm)). I probably understood half of what I read.

I realized that I needed to re-cable my antenna system to take advantage of a real SO2R system. My SO1R antenna switch was at the top of the tower. I had to run 5 new coax cables all the way down the tower and reposition my SO2R Six Pack antenna switch outside at the base of the tower. Installed a multi-band vertical as a backup. It was coming together.

To be continued....

**Preview...** So there I was, one Saturday morning trying to figure out how to operate my nascent SO2R station when, YIKES! I started wondering what would happen if I ever (or when) I screwed up and left both radios on the same band and tried to transmit.....

*(Continued from page 1)*

higher. John, K9JK, was the first person to enter the new rover-limited category, establishing the division record at 15,903.

In Indiana, N9YK set a new state record in the SOLP. KC9BQA also set a SOLP high in Wisconsin, at 96,360. AB0RX also placed well in Missouri in the SOLP.

**Onto September.** The September VHF experienced none of the enhanced conditions of the contest the month before. No division records were broken, as a result. On a very good note, SMC has 20 log entries nonetheless, and this was the greatest number of logs entered with the club since club competition started in 1999. Several other SMC members were also active beyond the circle or with other clubs, so there was lots of overall activity in the Midwest for this event. K2DRH won the Central Division in the SOLP at 158K. Bob was also 2nd in the nation. K9EA won the division in the SOHP from Indiana at 54K, and placed 10th in the nation. K9NS operated as Mt. Frank, and placed 5th in the nation in the M-L. W9SZ ran in the QRP portable, winning the division with a modest score. N9IFG won the division in the rover class, also with a very modest score. K9JK established the new initial score in the division in the R-L, at 1,760 points. KC9BQA won the SOLP in Wisconsin at 14K.

Each of our members who entered with the SMC deserves recognition. SOLP scores for the club included (in order of score): K2DRH, N9LR, WO9S, W9GKA, K9IJ, N9OBB, AF9J, K9OR, N9LYE, WE9V, KG9N, KB9WQJ, N9PUZ, W9SE, and W9RVG. In SOHP, club entries included K9CT, W9IIX, and W9VA. W9SZ was in the QRP, and N9IFH ran in the classic rover category. Tnx one and all.

**Activities in the VUAC.** The VUAC is considering further changes to the rover rules. The latest proposal reduces the number of QSO's between any two rovers to 30, while retaining the 50% limit on all rover to rover QSO's. This change is considered a tweaking of rules placed into effect earlier in the year to deal with team roving situations. The VUAC is also considering club competition for the August UHF.

**Distance Scoring Working Group.** With the continuing controversies surrounding the rover categories, some VHF contestants have renewed calls for implementing distance scoring in VHF contests, believing that this might be a way to deal with contesting tactics of some participants. Others believe however that distance scoring may cause problems in many other directions, and would prefer to handle the situation more directly. I have remained neutral on the topic of distance scoring, but generally am interested in seeing if a different scoring method would bring greater variety to

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

VHF contests in the US. Accordingly, I have established a Yahoo User's group to look into the concept in more depth. A number of SMC club members have already joined this group. Everyone is welcome to join. Please let me know if you are interested in this discussion.

**Central States 2009.** The CS VHF Conference in Chicago is rapidly approaching. This is going to be a great conference, with many technical presentations planned. SMC is co-hosting a suite at the conference. Please plan on attending. More information can be found at the CS VHF website. We will need help manning the hospitality suite. If you can assist any of the evenings of the conference, then please let me know.

**The SMC Cumulative Point List.** Now that all VHF club competition events have been reported for 2008, I have updated the cumulative points list. This list is designed to give recognition to those individuals who have consistently submitted logs with SMC in VHF contests over the years. The following list contains the points that each individual has provided to SMC in VHF events, going back as far as I can (around 1995). To be on this list, a person generally has to submit log entries on behalf of SMC in VHF club competition events. A score submitted with another club is not included in the list. I do include on the cumulative list a few club members who live outside the circle but coordinate with the club on club competition events and who do not submit with other clubs. I generally treat these entries as SMC logs, since only the distance out of circle keeps them from officially entering with the club.

For the sake of brevity, I have only included cumulative totals over 100,000 points. The complete list of all people who have submitted VHF scores with SMC since 1995 has 182 people on it! As such, the following should be considered to be the all-time heavy hitters of the SMC on VHF. Txn so much for all the club points over the years.

SMC Cumulative List, > 100K		
1995-2008		
Call	# tests	SMC pts
K2DRH	19	3,996,364
K9NS	4	2,587,078
WB9Z	15	2,437,998
N2BJ	22	1,865,069
K9CT	5	448,877
W9RVG	13	448,588
K9RN	5	418,383
WO9S	16	383,914
N9UM	6	362,295
WA1MKE	11	286,498
K9JK	11	245,972
K9ILT	5	243,403
W9GKA	13	226,067
K0PG	4	219,946
KF9US	3	211,830
N9TF	11	182,200
K9SG	4	173,177
K9ZO	8	154,001
NG9R	8	153,810
K9HMB	5	142,552
K9EA	2	140,612
N9AKR	4	136,087
KE9I	3	133,268
W9XA	7	111,482

## Time for Dues

If you're paying your SMC dues by check, PLEASE make the check out to **SMC or Society of Midwest Contesters and put your call somewhere on the check.**

MAIL your check to:

Society of Midwest Contesters or SMC  
 c/o Zig Markowski - KM9M  
 50 East Eureka Drive  
 Lemont, IL 60439

**Using PayPal is always an option too.**



## 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).



# KC9FD

**SOCIETY OF MIDWEST**

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

Midwest Engraving

Ph: 414-228-8654

6657 N. Sidney Place  
Glendale, WI 53209

Fax: 414-228-8655

# Contest University

Thursday, May 14, 2009  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton OH

<http://contestuniversity.com/>

## 17th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner

Saturday, May 16, 2009 -- Crowne Plaza Hotel

Cash bar 5:30pm/Dinner 6:30pm

\$39 per seat/\$290 per table

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

## Dayton Contest Forum

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Afternoon

Location and Presenters TBD

## Member/New Member Information/ Update Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Please send updates to:

**Zig Markowski - KM9M**  
50 E. Eureka Drive  
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## The Society of Midwest Contesters

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