



# 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. For more information contact one of the following officers:

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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).

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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)*

frequencies, keying radio 1 would wipe out anything but the strongest signals on radio 2. Spent a lot of time trouble shooting that one. Short answer was grounding. I already had every piece of equipment grounded to a copper ground buss using number 6 copper wire between the radio (amp, etc) and the ground buss. My problem turned out to be the length of the wire between the radios (amp, etc) and the ground bus. Some were just too long. I re-routed the ground buss and significantly shortened the ground wire between each piece of equipment and the ground buss. In a few cases I used ground strap instead of the number 6 copper wire between one of the radios and amps and the ground buss. That problem went away.

Antennas. I was very pleased with how my evolving antenna farm worked. I could hold a frequency and run on 40, 20, and 15 meters. Score 1 ½ out of 3. But...

When we were all little hams sitting on our mother's knee and learning about SO2R stations, we were taught that you needs lots and lots of antennas. At least two per band. And more if you do both domestic and DX contests. I must have slept through that one. Big mistake.

I had reasonably good antennas to do SO2R on 40 and 20. I could almost get by on 15 and 20 with the beam on 15 and a fair-to-poor vertical on 20. I was happy with the performance of what I had but not at all happy with what I didn't have. So, it's back to the drawing board to add more antennas to my growing aluminum and wire maze.

Operator. Well that was a bust. Playing SO2R is still just whipping me like an unwanted step child. Approximately 170 of my ~1500 Qs were on the second radio. I can't imagine how many other QSOs I may have lost doing that. My two challenges were training my ears and brain to deal with different signals in each ear and getting much smarter with the software. My brain might be trained in picking a signal out of the QRM in normal one radio operations, but when there's a different signal with its attendant contest QRM in each ear I can't seem to hear beans. That's probably a training and practice issue. Meanwhile, NIMM logger just kicks my butt for SO2R. There's just an awful lot to learn to be efficient. This boy has a long way to go.

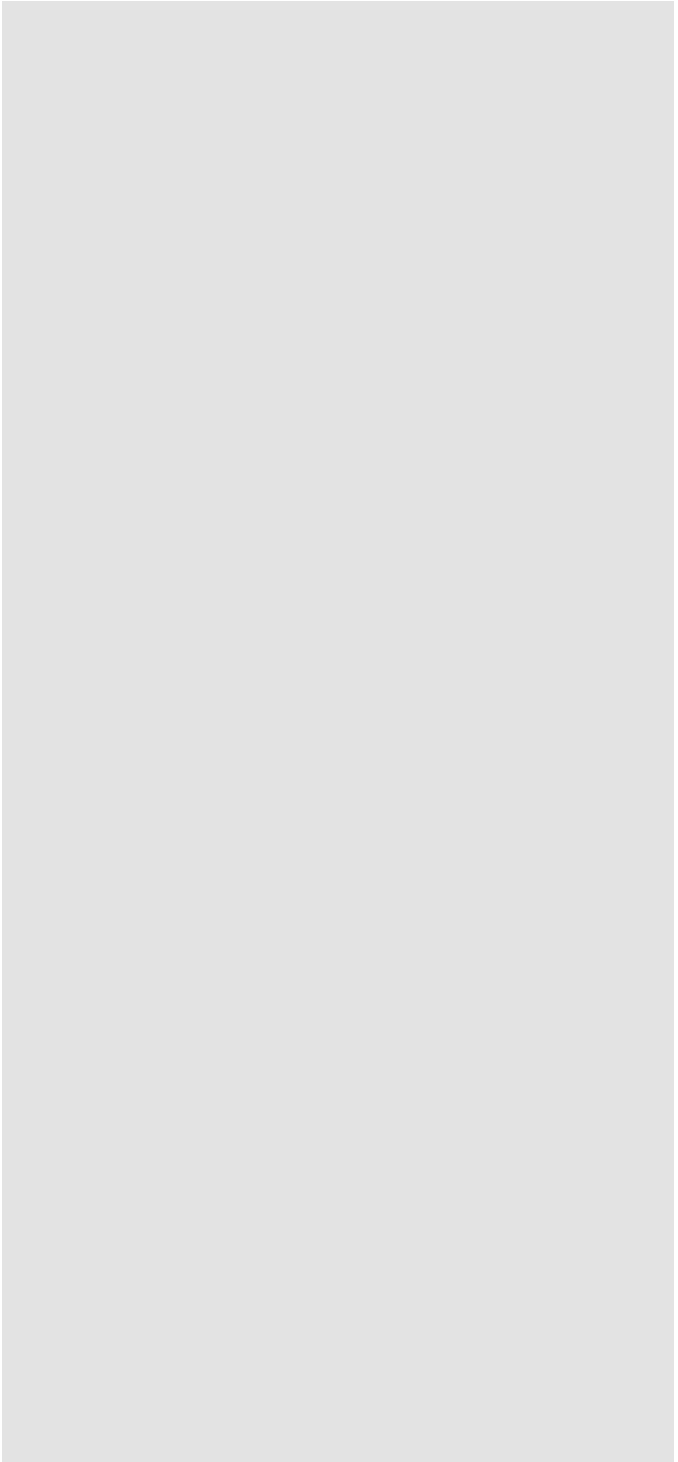
On the bright side, my stuff keeps coming in for the antenna farm. Next goals are to hit the August NAQP hard for SO2R training, architecting the next phase of the antenna farm. And getting more actual antenna work done on. Oh yes, and having some fun on the air in the interim.

Preview... So there I was, one Tuesday evening, running UA0s on 20 meters when .....

73 and GL... Bill ND9E

## K2DRH Achieves 2mtr WAS

On Aug 13, 2009 K2DRH worked California to complete his 2 meter terrestrial WAS. Only the 13th person to do so, and the first from east of the Mississippi. Way to go Bob!



# K4VX 80th Birthday Party



**Left to Right - N9JF, KB9CES, K4VX, K9BGL, K9PG, NS0Z, N0SS, NN1N  
and Sharon (Lew & Terri's daughter)**



**The K4VX antenna farm**

# 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 CONTESTERS**

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**

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

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## The Society of Midwest Contesters

*Brian Maves, K9QQ*  
1322 Engle Creek Dr.  
O'Fallon, IL 62269

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