

# THE BLACK HOLE



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## Adventures in SO2R Land - Part 10

By Bill Axelrod ND9E

Prolog. So there I was, middle of a sleepless night, listening to the noise on 160 meters and contemplating requirements creep...

In a previous article I talked about the need for a sound systems engineering approach. And how a sound systems engineering approach helps minimize requirements creep. But, like in warfare, no plan survives contact with the real world. Changes happen. Events shape your thoughts and impressions. You either react to real world happenings or suffer the consequences.

Perspective and objectivity are important when re-evaluating the results of your initial systems engineering derived to-be plan for your station. In this case I was dwelling on my experiences with the Glorioso Islands DX-pedition. Maybe fixated is the operative word.

Ok, I was bummed out that I wasn't any where near first working this big one. Three days it took me.

Perspective said "well, jeez, you cracked the pile ups for Mayotte, Conway Reef, Clipperton Island in one or two calls whenever you heard them." You're getting very good real signal reports from South Africa on 80 meters." So what's the big deal? There aren't that many big DX-peditions where you need to work that hard.

Objectivity said something else. Objectivity looked at the correlation between not being loud enough to really stand out big signal to make a dent in the crowd when chasing a TX5GA and being loud in a contest. Loud is good. You need loud to stand out and entice

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## SMC Sprint Team #1

Brian Maves, K9QQ

The SMC#1 team took first place in the September 2009 running of the NCJ NA Sprint SSB. Scott, KA9FOX, took first place overall and Mike, W9RE, placed fifth. The team included:

KA9FOX, Scott

W9RE, Mike

WW9R, Pat

K3MD, John

AL9A, Gary

N9FC, John

WI9WI, Jim

AF9J, Ellen

people to line up and answer your CQ contest calls to maintain a high rate. If others are louder than you, well that's not quite what you want.

Objectivity also said "well, without multiple towers and stack of arrays for each band, you won't be the loudest". True. I don't expect to be the loudest. I just want to be louder. The real answer turns out to be that each of us should strive to be as loud as we can be to enable your contest-ability.

How's your ground system? Don't have one? Get help and pound in a 8 ft ground rod. Get a low loss connection to your rig. You'll gain signal while lowering your noise floor for the weak ones and minimizing RFI. A cheap fix.

If you are limited to 100 watts, look at your antenna system and look for low cost, easy to implement improvements.

How old is your coax? Are you using 5 year old cheap stuff from Radio Shack? If so, you are probably loosing 2 to 3 db. Upgrade your coax, get back that 2 to 3 db. Makes a big differ-

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# 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

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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## 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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## W9GKA Appointed to VUAC

By Brian Maves, K9QQ

SMC member Kevin Kaufold, W9GKA, was recently appointed to the ARRL VHF-UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC). The following announcement came from the ARRL Central Division:

“With the election of Kermit Carlson, W9XA, as the ARRL Central Division Vice Director, I have appointed Kevin Kaufold, W9GKA as his replacement on the ARRL VHF-UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC). Kevin wants to keep using the Central Division VUAC email reflector at:

centdivvhftopics@w9fz.com

as his primary source of Central Division user input.

Please send your VHF & higher comments and questions to W9GKA at the email address above.”

ARRL Central Division

Director: George Isely, W9GIG



## W9FX IL RACES Officer

By Brian Maves, K9QQ

SMC member Brad Pioveson, W9FX, recently became the Illinois State RACES Officer. The following comments appeared in the Monthly Illinois Section News Summary:

“By now, most everyone is aware of the agreement in place with IEMA to reestablish RACES at the State level. I've had conversation with several old hands who related tales of attempts to accomplish this over fifteen years ago. We are fortunate to have good folks to close the deal. Again, I thank Brad Pioveson W9FX, Charlie Richey K9DUE, Jim Pitchford N9LQF, and the others who were not mentioned (or chose not to be mentioned) for their efforts. Brad has been selected as State RACES Officer, and the assistant and regional officers are falling into place in a RACES organization parallel to ARES but joined at the summit by Brad's leadership. I urge those ARES groups without relationships with their local or county EMA/ESDA/OEM to use this opportunity now for an entry with those worthies. If you need help, contact Brad or I.”

Congratulations Brad!

(Continued from page 1)

ence.

Is your only antenna a G5RV at 30 ft and you want to do better in a DX contest? Put up a wire vertical for 20 meters. Only 16 ft tall. You'll gain 2 to 3 db over that G5RV for DX.

Is your only antenna a vertical and you want to do better in the sweepstakes or other domestic contest? Put up a G5RV at 30 ft.. You'll gain 2 to 3 db over that vertical for stateside QSOs.

Even the smallest beam fixed on Europe will make you stand out in a DX contest.

Beg, borrow, or steal a small amplifier. 600 watts gets you 7 db or so over your 100 watts.

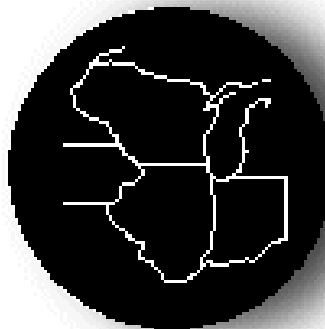
Of course, the biggest enabler of all is the time you spend in the operating chair. Get on, stay on, and make those Qs.

Oh yeah, what am I going to do? A couple of things. My beam is only at 45 ft. My long term plan had included a second tower. New tower time is now rather than later. I've been agonizing over what to do to get a second decent antenna for 20 through 10 meters. I'm going to put up another beam over the next few months (snow dependant), at 85 ft this time. That's about optimum for a 20 meter single beam. Higher would pretty much distort the pattern.

And I will lengthen my 160-80 meter vertical to 70 ft so I'm long for 80 and have a longer vertical section for the relay switched 160 meter inverted L. Add more radials as well.

Requirements creep – Yes. But necessary changes to my plan that reflect what I've learned on the air.

Preview... So there I was, lurking on the bands, working DX and just waiting for the November Sweepstakes to start when .....



NA Sprint CW (Feb) (as of Feb 09)

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	MRRRC	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	DLCSCW	IL	00	
(AG9A)											
K9AA	Paul	94	139	69	302	55	16,610	DLCSCW	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	DLCSCW	IL	99	10th
(W9QA)											
N9RV	PAT	106	146	105	357	44	15,708	SMC #1	IN	05	9th
K9NW	Mike	97	117	102	310	50	15,500	MRRRC	IN	00	

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
N9RV	106	146	105	357	05
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
(W00G)					
K9PG	99	166	76	341	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
DLCSCW	00	151,852	2nd Place
DL	02	150,332	2nd Place
SMC-CAT	04	124,758	4th Place
SMC #1	05	105,805	5th Place
SMC	94	96,590	2nd Place
DLCSCW	97	95,832	2nd Place
SMC #1	91	95,640	3rd Place
DLCSCW	99	92,054	3rd Place
DLCS	06	91,978	5th Place

NA Sprint SSB (Feb) (as of Feb 09)

Top 20 Scores

Call	Name	20	40	80	QSOs	Mult	Score	Team	Area	Yr	Top 10
K9XD (K9PG)	Dave	120	153	83	356	58	20,648	DLCT	IL	00	2nd
K9PG	Paul	124	158	86	368	56	20,608	DLCT	IL	02	1st
K9PG (@WB9Z)	Paul	98	162	151	411	46	18,906	DL	IL	04	1st
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 (AA9AK)	Dave	130	130	74	334	47	15,698	UMRFFC	MO	92	8th
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
W00G	Dave	120	133	64	317	49	15,533	SMC #2	MO	91	3rd
K9PG (at WB9Z)	Paul	63	147	125	335	46	15,410	SMC #1	IL	05	4th
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 (@WB9Z)	98	162	151	411	04
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 (@WB9Z)	63	147	125	335	05
K4VX (AA9AK)	130	130	74	334	92

Top 10 Mults

Call	Mults	Yr
K9XD (K9PG)	58	00
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

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send updates to:

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

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## The Society of Midwest Contesters

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