

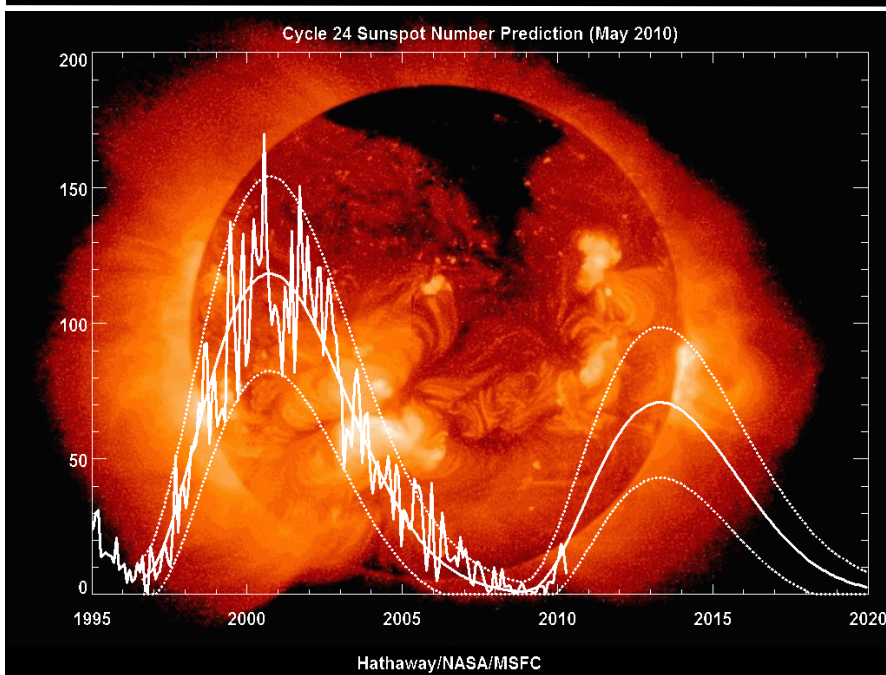
THE BLACK HOLE



Official Journal of The Society of Midwest Contesters

Volume XVIII Issue IV

June 2010



Prediction for Solar Cycle 24

We're starting to see sunspot numbers around 20 and 10cm flux values over 80. General consensus is a peak for this cycle around May 2013, with sunspot numbers significantly below the peak levels of Cycle 23.



SMC wishes
Terry, N4TZ,
the best of luck
in the
competition!

IARU
HF World Championship

Adventures in SO2R Land - Part 9

By Bill Axelrod ND9E

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

20 meters went dead. Completely dead. Not a peep! It didn't take long for even me to determine that the band didn't go dead all of a sudden. My station did. Logical trouble shooting saved time. Problem found. I didn't like the answer but the problem was quickly clear.

In my days as an electronics technical, I got used to being pes-tered by users who kept asking when will you find and fix the

(Continued on page 5)

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. For more information contact one of the following officers:

BOARD

Mike Kasrich, AJ9C ** (President)

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 Schneebeli, KI9A

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.

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>



Badges

Order Today!



Shirts

Field Day Anyone?

Ed. Thanks to all the members who shared their Field Day plans. If you're looking for a place to do a little operating, look for a group in your area and see if you can join them.

City, St	Location	Club Name	Call	Cat	Contact
Terre Haute, IN	Zorah Shrine Summer Place	Wabash Valley A.R. Assoc. Inc.	W9UUU	9A	Ray - K9DUR
St. Louis, MO	Creve Coeur Park	St. Louis ARC (SLARC)	K0LIR	2A	Bill -W0HBH
Quincy, IL	Red Cross Adams County Chapter, 3000 N. 23rd 2F	Western Illinois ARC	W9AWE	?	Danny -NG9R
Peoria, IL	Illinois State Park Wildlife Prairie Park	Peoria Area ARC	K9PIA/W9PEO	3A	Craig - K9CT
Goshen, IN	Goshen County Fair Grounds	Goshen ARC	K9WJU	3A	Jim -WT9U
Bethalto,IL	Bethalto Regional Air port	Lewis & Clark Radio Club	K9HAM	?	Sam -K9SD
Racine, WI	Sanders Park Picnic Area #4	Gateway Technical College's ARC	N9GTC	2A	Pat - WW9R
Munster, IN	?	Bozo and the Lids	W9TG	1A	Joel - W9WJU
West Lafayette, IN	Ross Hills Park	Lafayette DX Association	W9LDX	1A	Scott - N9LJX
Elmhurst, IL	Elmhurst Fire Department Training Facility	York Radio Club	W9YRC	2F	Todd -W9YK
Cicero IN	Near Morse Reservoir	Hoosier DX and Contest Club	KJ9D	1A	Mel - KJ9C
Bloomington, IN	Karst Farm Park	Bloomington (Indiana) ARC	K9DIY/ K9SOU	2A	Bob - K9SQL
southern IN	Edwardsville Park	Clark County ARC	W9WWI	3A	Dan—K9ZF
Green Bay, WI		Northeast Wisconsin Radio Club	WI9FD	2D/2E	Gregg - K9KL
Fairview Heights, IL	Pleasant Ridge Park	PRIME ARA & St. Clair CO ARC	K9JHQ	2A	Chuck—KI9A
Riverton, IL	Riverton Middle School	Sangamon Valley Radio Club	W9DUA	4/5A	Don, -W9EBK
Lake Forest IL	Northcroft Park	North Shore Radio Club	K9OR /K9RST	3A	Randy - K9OR
Frankfort In	Camp Walter Fowler	Clinton County ARC	W9AH	2A	Sam - W9AH
Columbus, IN	Lake Somethingorother	Beldar's Minions	N0AX	1B	Ward—N0AX

WRTC Awards and Prizes

WRTC Press Release #22

To encourage the HAM radio community worldwide to make contacts with WRTC-2010 participants during the IARU HF Championship contest the weekend of July 10-11, 2010, we would like to announce our special awards and prizes program.

WRTC-2010 awards, special plaques, T-shirts and trophies will be issued based upon the following rules:

1. QSO points

- All WRTC stations will use distinctive callsigns from the block R30A – R39Z. The same WRTC-2010 station may be worked once on CW and once on SSB on each band (80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m). The WRTC stations will not operate on 160m.

- Each confirmed two-way CW or SSB QSO with a WRTC-2010 station counts 1 point.

2. The logs

The WRTC Committee needs as many IARU contest logs as possible to create the QSO data base it will use to cross check the WRTC competitors' logs. We ask all stations working the IARU contest to please send copies of their electronic, Cabrillo formatted logs to logs@wrtc2010.ru or upload them to <http://www.wrtc2010.ru/upload/> no later than 18:00 UTC on Sunday, July 11, 2010 (Note: this is only six hours after the end of the contest). The subject field should contain your contest callsign, e.g., "Subject: RA5AA".

The Committee guarantees that these logs will be used only to determine winners of the WRTC awards and prizes, and for cross checking the WRTC-2010 teams' logs. Please understand that sending us a copy of your log does NOT constitute a log submission for the IARU HF Championship; for that, you should also e-mail your log to IARUHF@iaru.org.

3. Awards and Prizes

WRTC-2010 Certificate:

For making 50 QSO points with the WRTC-2010 stations in any combination of modes and bands.

WRTC-2010 Special Trophy:

For making QSOs with ALL WRTC-2010 Stations on CW
For making QSOs with ALL WRTC-2010 Stations on SSB
For making QSOs with ALL WRTC-2010 Stations Mixed

WRTC-2010 T-shirt:

DX: for making 100 QSO points with WRTC-2010 stations
EU: for making 180 QSO points with WRTC-2010 stations

ITU Zone 29: for making 140 QSO points with WRTC-2010 stations

WRTC-2010 plaques:

WRTC-2010 plaques will be issued to the stations with the highest number of QSO points in the following categories:

Worked all WRTC-2010 - Single op CW
Worked all WRTC-2010 - Single op SSB
Worked all WRTC-2010 - Single op Mixed
Worked all WRTC-2010 - Multi op CW
Worked all WRTC-2010 - Multi op SSB
Worked all WRTC-2010 - Multi op Mixed

WRTC-2010 plaques will be awarded for each of the following areas:

Europe
Asia
North America
South America
Africa
Oceania
USA
Japan
HQ stations
European Russia (R1-R7)
Asiatic Russia (R8-R9)
Asiatic Russia (R0)

The complete list of WRTC-2010 station callsigns will be published on the WRTC WEB site 1 day before the contest.

We also ask you to cooperate with requests from R30A-R39Z stations to move to another band or mode with them for a new multiplier or QSO.



Summer 6 mtr DX peditions

By Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA

The following list comprises the grid trips that I know of. Several will be on the air for the June VHF contest. Many will have digital capabilities, as well.

Please also note there are some really rare grids being activated this summer - DL88 / 89 has not been on-air in a big way in 20 years. CM79 and CN71 are two of the rarest grids in the country. And also note contributions by own SMC members - K9AKS will be on his annual hunt for interesting sections in the June VHF contest, and WB8BZK is going to VE land again at the end of May. Great job.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 1)

problem? And my wise-guy answer normally was that I could find the problem in 10 minutes – but I can't guess how long will it take to fix it. My big mouth came back to bite me.

My trouble was that the coax came loose from the antenna. How? That's the question for the ages. What mattered was that it would have been an easy fix if only I could reach it. But I needed a bucket truck to do that and I could not get one in time for SS.

So, the major part of my antenna arsenal was gone in a flash. I was limited to a multiple band vertical for 20 thru 10, my two element vertical phased array for 40, and a quarter wave vertical for 80. Probably about the most inappropriate antennas for a domestic contest I can imagine.

I had really been looking forward to this SS since it is one of my favorite contests. This was my first real SS effort from the Black Hole. I've done the SS from the East Coast, West coast, Alaska, and Hawaii. But never before from the mid-west. Very, very different and I still have a lot to learn here. It's a whole different ball game. And the CW SS is a great contest to increase one's SO2R proficiency.

So, appropriate antennas or not, there I was at the starting bell, ready to go. My first QSO in the contest was NWT on 20 meters. Easy as pie. That's never supposed to happen in a Sweepstakes and it threw me for a loop from which I probably never recovered. Got the first 79 sections by about 8 PM Saturday night. Number 79 was MI, Weird. The last was NL which came around Sunday AM around 0900. What a relief to get my sweep early.

80 meters was the money band. I would have liked to try 160 but still don't have an antennas there.

I kept going and ended with 908 QSOs. Only 80 were on my second radio. So why only 80 on the second radio? To improve my SO2R ability I'd have to figure out why. Other than the fact that I'm dumber than a fence post, that is.

The answers broke down to a few categories that I need to work on.

The first is speed. I found I could do SO2R as long as the rate on my run radio was below 60 Qs per minute. Above that and I was lost. I believe that's a practice and experience issue. Like learning CW, I think that my speed will come up the more I do.

The second is timing. I'd tune the second radio, find a station running that I needed, queue him up in the N1MM logger entry window, and then try to time a call between my run radio QSOs, my next auto-CQ, and his run. It seemed it would take me 4 or 5 minutes to get the timing right to even call the guy while keeping my run going and not loose the run frequency. If I could reduce that 5 minutes or so, I could increase my SO2R rate by a bunch.

Again, I believe that's a practice and experience issue.

The third was intra-station interference. My 80 and 40 meter verticals are too close together. Transmitting on 80 caused about a S7 level of hash on the 40 meter radio which made SO2R S&P on 40 very difficult. I don't have a good answer on that problem yet.

So I finished my first black hole CW SS fairly happy and with a work list:

Get my beam fixed

Get a 160 meter antenna up

Increase my ability to do SO2R at higher run rates

Work on bettering my timing for second radio QSOs.

Get rid or minimize my intra-station interference.

We'll see how that goes.

The next week I got the beam fixed. Yee haw! And then, right on schedule, the snow started falling. Winter in Central Illinois – you just gotta love it.

Prolog. So there I was on New Years Eve, drinking and think about the next year's contests. RTTY Round Up the first weekend and the CW NAQP shortly afterwards. Would I get any better at SO2R? Will there be world peace? Well, that one really didn't enter my mind. I gotta get a life.



US ---

CN71 KB7ME Maybe for June VHF

CM86 K6EU Maybe for June VHF

DM87 KK6MC & W3DHJ/R June VHF

DN63 W0ETT June 11-14

DL88 N5XYO June VHF - Maybe, DL89, too

DN80 K9AKS June VHF DL79 W5

EM June 22 - 24

DL88/89K5N June 28 - July 3

DM70 K5M June 26 - 27

DM80 W5CEM June 25; June 28; DM70?

CM79 KB8U summer, maybe

DM77 K9ROD can activate if needed

DM87 K9ROD over summer, sometime

DX ---

EO40 WB8BZK 5-29 to 6-3

EK92 5J0BV June VHF

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.

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

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL