

THE BLACK HOLE



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From the President

By Miike Kasrich, AJ9C

Well its election day, as I write this the dust has cleared from CW SS.

Did you get on? Like voting, if you were on make your log count and submit it under the SMC flag. Remember log submission deadlines for SS are shorter than they were a year or two ago. Fifteen days I believe.

Our goal is to increase activity in SS and reach 200 logs between both modes. We need your log even if it was for only one qso.

Speaking of elections, we will have an election for Board of Directors this year. There are three open slots and we have at the present time 5 nominations. Nominations are also open for President. Remember the deadline for nominations is Nov 16.

We will be using an online voting website for the election. Is your email address on the roster up to date? An email will be sent out to each member on the roster with a link. Click the link and vote. If your email address is not up to date you will miss your chance to vote.

(Continued on page 3)

Adventures in SO2R Land - Part 16

By Bill Axelrod K3WA

Prolog. So there I was, waiting for the ARRL RTTY Roundup to begin. This time I was ready! Two quality radios, two working beams, two legal limit amps, well this contest should be a cake walk.

We all know that RTTY contests are just great for SO2R operating. The software does the coding and decoding so one can devote the majority of his or her cranial grey matter to running the SO2R operations. You just gotta love it.

The RTTY RU started off in great fashion with decent rates and a good number of SO2R second radio QSOs. That pleasant situation

(Continued on page 3)

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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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(Continued from page 1)

I sent an email to the board members about goals for the SMC moving forward. Three simple goals. Goal one, build the organization.

Everyone knows someone that is on for contests, HF or VHF, that is not on our roster. This year every club member should take some time and ask that person to join the SMC. It doesn't make any difference if they join or not we can't grow without asking. I'm all for ideas from the members on how we can make new members happen. We aren't an elitist club, all you have to have to be a member is an interest in/love of radiosport.

Goal two, build community within the club. Are there members that you see on a regular basis? That is the seed of a get together for locals.

Get on the reflector and let us know if you are getting together for lunch/dinner. Invite others to join. Do you have a station with multiple operating positions? Just don't have the stamina for a full 48 hrs in the chair? Send out an invitation to the reflector and do a multi-op for a contest. To me the SMC is more than an umbrella organization for scores. Its my radio club and it should be yours too.

By connecting with other members community happens.

Goal three, expand your horizons contest-wise and create buzz. Get on in a contest or use a mode that you haven't before. Talk about your experience on the reflector. Your excitement will generate enthusiasm in the other members. Case in point, Paula/K9IR posted to the reflector her outstanding effort in SS CW. More time in the chair, new logging program and over 100k for the first time in SS CW. Did you feel her excitement and sense of accomplishment? I did and that is what creates buzz within the club. Your words regarding how you "went for it" will inspire others.

Simple goals and not something that just the president or board members can accomplish on their own. This is on the membership as a whole. If you have desire and don't feel that the SMC is "going for it" then change that dynamic. Why are you hiding in the bushes? Like a political campaign talk it up, inspire others and win one for the SMC.

Lets hear from the membership. How can we as the board facilitate meeting these goals? Your input is more than welcome, its needed.

I'm Mike AJ9C, President of the SMC and I approve this message.



lasted for five hours, and then Mr. Soft Murphy came calling. Mr. who?

All too well we know about Murphy, when he visits, what he does. Sometimes Murphy just can't make his way into your shack and break something. That's when he sends in his evil twin brother Soft Murphy. Mr. Soft Murphy's job is to infiltrate your shack and screw up whatever software you have running. And, five hours into the RTTY RU, Mr. Soft Murphy paid me a visit.

I run N1MM logger as my main contesting software with the MMTTY engine. This combination has been running perfectly for a long time dishing out flawless SO2R RTTY with only routine N1MM software updates. Five hours into the RTTY RU the status quo became un-quo'd. N1MM's behavior changed. Suddenly, it would only open one of the two digital windows because only one instance of MMTTY would initialize. Lost about one solid hour messing with freezes and an occasional "blue screen of death". Mr. Soft Murphy had come calling. The only fix at the time was to devolve to single radio ops for the remainder of the contest.

Learned later that the latest update of N1MM really needed the latest update to MMTTY. Did that, after the contest, and the problem was solved.

Now to get ready for the ARRL CW DX contest in February. Last year I won the number 1 position for Illinois in the SOAB HP category. I was planning a full time effort to do it again.

Meanwhile, my loving spouse had visions of a major home renovation starting on the first of February. That was all well and good. As a loving husband should, I support my wife in these endeavors, especially after a year of major investment in my antenna farm and radio shack. And then the work started. Kitchen ripped out, carpets removed to make way for new wood floors, shower ripped out for new tile enclosure. Oh yes the renovations had begun and were well underway. I was well on my way to solving Illinois's economic problems all on my own.

Note to self – NEVER schedule a major home renovation

(Continued on page 5)



Eric, T6MO (aka K9GY)



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

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

(Continued from page 3)

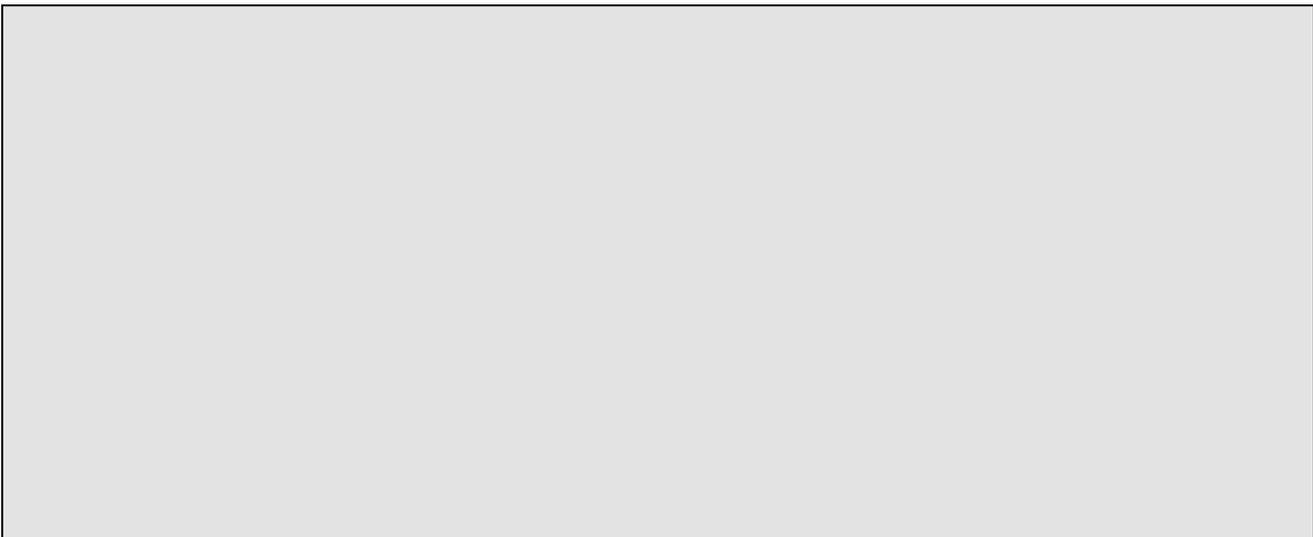
during the contest season.

Friday afternoon just before the start of the ARRL DX contest the contracting team decided they were behind schedule and asked my XYL if they could work late that evening and over the weekend. And, as a loving husband should, I supported my wife in this endeavor, especially after a year of major investment in my antenna farm and radio shack.

Did you know that noise cancelling headphones do not cancel the sound of drills, hammers, and other noisy construction tools? In plain English, that was the end of that contest. Wait 'till next year.

So, what's left this contest season? Well there's the CW WPX in May and the VHF contest in June. Maybe I'll be able to do those two properly. Or not.

Epilog. So, here I sit, thinking about my Adventures in SO2R Land as I've yakked about in the past 16 contributions to my series. I've learned a lot. My station and antenna farm have evolved. I'm not sure if I have. In my next installment, which will be the final one, I will try to compile the essence of the lessons I've learned here in SO2R Land



Member/New Member Information/ Update Form

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