

# Chicago FM Club Squelch Tale - January 2004

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Volume 2004

Number 1

January

2004

## THE PRESIDENT COMMENTS

At the last meeting we held an election for our 5 Board of Directors positions. Those elected to these positions were Joe Genovese (WA9KOD), BOB Schiff (KA9HFF), Howard Goldberg (N9KTW), Rick Duel (W9XB), and Rich Roberts (KA9R).

Congratulations to all and a special thanks to Adam Strack (KU9Z) and Mike Brost (WA9FTS) who where not reelected, but have served at the Board of Directors position for many years.

After reviewing our financial position for this past year it has been brought to my attention that we did not net as much profit from Radio Expo 2003 as we have at past Expos. Part of this was due to our mix up on dates and additional expenses in advertising. Regardless, we still managed to make a profit. As you well know we could not run the club as we do on revenue from dues alone. It's the money from Radio Expo that pays for the new transmitters Antennas, and other goodies we need to keep CFMC on the air.

The new Board Members and Officers will be facing this challenge in the coming year and we will need the support of all the members to keep CFMC the success it has always been.

We will be making certain cut backs in order to offset our expenses. I'm sure that with some fine-tuning and the help of you the members we will be back in the black.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family's a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our next General Meeting.

73 de Phil N9PA

## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of The Chicago FM Club will be held at 8:00 PM in the Edgebrook Field House, which is located at 6100 N. Central Avenue. The entrance is on the west side of the street between Caldwell and Elston Avenues. Just so you won't get confused, the address on the entrance is 5900 N. Central. As always, CFMC's general meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, which will make this meeting date January 21st. As usual, our Refreshment Chairman Howard, N9KTW will have coffee and donuts available after the meeting. See you at the meeting and don't forget to bring a friend!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

For First Reading

KC9DUZ Brian M. Kieduik (K9VO KB9AJM)

For Third Reading And Vote

KB9ZKE Paul Holman (N9PA K9FFY)

New Member

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Chicago FM Club would like to welcome the following new members voted in at the December general meeting:

K9KRO Denny Beringer

KC2CSH Jay Seigel

KC9ENZ Dennis Krawczak

Membership Renewals

The following CFMC members renewed during November and December 2003;

KC9AIR KC9BF WD9BHP KC9DTD W8EGK WA9EMY WA9EVF WD9FOG W9FUF WD9GIX WN9GUC W9IVJ  
KA9IXQ WD9JEP KB9JIO WA9KUK K9LPL N9LVD KG9MC N9NOQ WB9OUD KE9PE N9PQD K9QPM N9QQK  
K9RLF KF9SP KA9TRG WA9TSI KC9UJ WB9UMK W9UWE N9UZG K9VCZ K9WGN KB9WQG N9YOI K9YSE  
N9ZAZ KB9ZKE

The following former members chose not to renew:

WA9AYQ KA9QJF KB9WWS

#### BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

At the election held at the December general, the following members were elected to the Board to serve during the years 2004 and 2005:

KA9HHH Bon Schiff

WA9KOD Joe Genevese

N9KTW Howard Goldberg

KA9R Richard Roberts

W9XB Rick Duel

#### JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The January Board meeting was held at RussellÅfs Restaurant. The meeting was called to order at 7:25PM. Those in attendance were:

N9PA W9EG K9FFY N9RKU WA9KOD N9KTW KA9R W9XB WA9KXZ W9XB CAROL

Secretary K9FFY

The minutes of the November Board meeting as printed in Squelch Tale were accepted with no corrections or additions.

Treasurer N9RKU

Jim passed out his report and went on to discuss some of the details. (look elsewhere for his report). The Web page is paid until 2007.

Technical W9XB

The new 2 Meter transmitter has arrived, but it has been programmed on the wrong frequency and will have to be sent back. A new Pre-Amp might be added to the receiver. The Downers Grove Site might be down. It will be checked out. Echo-Link is up and running on both the 2 Meter and 440 MHZ repeaters and from all reports sounds great.

Radio Expo '04 N9PA

As it looks now, we will be using only 2 buildings, but that could change. The confirmed dates this year are September 18 and 19 2004.

The March Board meeting will be held at Russell's Restaurant. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

ROSTER

The latest roster of the Chicago FM Club is included in the issue. Please take a second to check your listing for any errors that might have gotten into the Database. If you find any, please let me know via the Ham-Help line. (773) 262-6773.

TAKE THIS IMPORTANT TEST!

Hold this rectangle to your face and blow on it. If it turns green, call your physician. If it turns brown, see your dentist. If it turns purple, see your psychiatrist. If it turns red, see your banker. If it turns black, call your lawyer and make a will.

If it remains the same color, you are in good health, and there is no reason on Earth why you should not be at the next CFMC club meeting!

## CFMC QSL SERVICE

For those members who did not know, CFMC offers a QSL service to its membership. If you have any QSL cards that need to go to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, just sort them and send them to Tim, WD9DZV (via the Roster address) or bring them to the General Meetings and give them to Tim or Phil, N9PA! It doesn't matter if it's 1 or 100, we'll take care of them for you. There are NO FEES involved when you use this member service so it can save you a bundle of \$\$ Please remember, this service is for CFMC members ONLY!! Mailings to the ARRL QSL Bureau will be made at the end of every month, so those cards won't have to lie around while you get enough for a mailing. This service is just another one of the privileges of CFMC membership. If there are any further questions please feel free to call me, or e-mail me at: wd9dzv@arrl.net or tgarrity@sprintmail.com

## ARRL AWARDS MANAGER

Are you trying for your Worked All States, or 5-Band Worked All States or that very difficult VHF-UHF Century Club Award (VUCC)? If so CFMC can help.

Not actually in getting your contacts or getting your QSL's back but, once you have the necessary cards confirmed that's where our CFMC ARRL Awards Manager Tim, WD9DZV comes in. He can verify your application and your cards so that you do not have to send them off to someone in another city and chance losing them in the mail. Tim is usually at most of the CFMC general meetings or at the ARRL VE testing sessions held just before the CFMC meetings. Tim can verify your cards there, or if you wish you can even mail your cards to him.

One point to remember, if there are any corrections on the card, like a correction from SSB to CW, then the card is no good. The ARRL rules specifically state that no corrections are allowed on a card, no matter who made the correction. We did receive a card from a station in Arkansas and they had written 20 in the "MHZ" column and then wrote 14 over it. Even though it could be argued that he tried to put 20 meters and then changed it to 14 MHZ the card has been altered and not valid. We sent it back to the station and requested a corrected card.

The ARRL is now charging fees for most of the awards. Be sure that you bring a check made out to the ARRL for the correct fee amount with you. Don't forget a large enough size SASE and the required amount of postage for me to submit the award. The Awards manager now must submit the award form, not the applicant.

73's and good luck in seeking your awards. Any questions, you can reach Tim, WD9DZV via the roster, E-Mail to: wd9dzv@arrl.net

## CQ AWARDS MANAGER

If you are looking to attain any of the CQ awards, again, Tim WD9DZV is a CQ Awards Card Checker. He can help with getting that Worked All Zones Award, and CQ-DX award paperwork verified for you so you won't have to send those valuable QSL cards in the mail. For further information just contact Tim via the CFMC Roster or E-Mail him at wd9dzv@arrl.net

## FCC NEWS AND UPDATES

### Study Says White House Should Regulate RF Spectrum

A new study says that its time for the White House to replace the FCC as the nations regulator of the airwaves.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies is a private research organization that analyzes global issues. And in a recent report, it basically posed the rhetorical questions of what if the FCC went away, and, what if the Executive branch of the federal government, the White House took over management of the nation's airwaves?

Would it be better or worse for America? The Center says yes. That in its view, such a change would definitely improve the way the finite resource called electromagnetic spectrum is managed, but critics have their doubts. One told Amateur Radio Newsline: quote "You think the spectrum management is bad now, put it under the executive branch" -

- unquote.

Be that as it may, the Center's report called Spectrum Management for the 21st Century was recently presented to Representative Tom Davis. Davis is chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform and the report recommends a number of steps to stop what the think-tank describes as the increasing number of fights over existing spectrum space.

Among its recommendations are to develop a national spectrum strategy. Increase research support for technologies that make better use of the spectrum and the controversial one. Establish a spectrum oversight advisory board to implement full White House control of all spectrum related matters.

Davis said his committee would weigh the report's findings, along with the results of five ongoing General Accounting Office reviews and a Presidential Spectrum Policy Initiative study commissioned last June. With all of this information for Congress to gather and digest, any change in who will regulate the nations spectrum is probably years, if not decades away.

## Changes At The CGB

Still with the FCC, word that Louis J. Sigalos has been named Chief and Sherry Dawson has been named Deputy Chief of the FCC's Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau. This bureau is responsible for conducting outreach to the American public on a broad array of telecommunications issues including the deployment of broadband services, the transition to digital TV, wireless phones and services including local number portability and much more. The Division also promotes public awareness of the Commission's strategic goals and initiatives through consumer advisories and fact sheets, consumer forums and participation in conferences and workshops.

## FCC announces Universal Licensing System Makeover

At week's end, the FCC was preparing to put a new face on the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>>, which includes the Amateur Service. The Commission was set to unveil the new on-line ULS filing interface December 14.

To implement the changes, the ULS on-line filing system will be down from 12 AM EST Saturday, December 13, until 10 AM EST Sunday, December 14.

Among other features, the ULS makeover will include easier-to-read on-screen forms that guide users through filing and simplify such routine tasks as applying for license renewal, address change or vanity call sign. The FCC says the introduction of its new system, called "ULS License Manager," concludes phase one of an ongoing ULS overhaul by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

ULS License Manager will be compatible with most, if not all, major Web browsers and computer platforms and no longer will require downloading Java and Java Script files. Screens also will be compliant with Web screen-to-voice reader software. An FCC staffer involved with implementing

ULS License Manager notes that all features may not be in place when the system debuts.

The ULS will require all filers to log into the system using an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Commission Registration System (CORES) password. The FCC said it would no longer accept a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), a Social Security Number for most individuals, for log-in purposes.

Once the new system is up and running, all licenses and applications in the ULS database will be converted to the new ULS License Manager filing environment.

There's also a new paper version of FCC Form 605, dated December 2003. One change is that Form 605 no longer requests a date of birth and will only accept an FRN and CORES password. There are no Amateur Service-related changes to any Form 605 schedules. The FCC says Amateur Service applicants may continue to use the March 2001 (or later) edition of Form 605, although it encourages use of the newest version. The new FCC Form 605 now is available via the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>>.

To assist with any ULS issues after the changeover, the Technical Support Hotline staff will be available Sunday, December 14, from 10 AM until 6 PM EST. Normal hours are weekdays (except holidays) from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. Technical Support is available via the FCC Web site <<http://esupport.fcc.gov>> or telephone 877-480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255).

## **BPL - AMATEUR RADIO'S GREATEST THREAT! KEEP INFORMED!!**

### **FEMA Says BPL Will "Severely Impair" Essential HF Operations**

Is this a proverbial monkey wrench in the works for BPL? Expressing "grave concerns" about likely interference from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) told the FCC that BPL could "severely impair FEMA's mission-essential HF radio operations in areas serviced by BPL technology." FEMA responded December 4 to last April's FCC BPL Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 03-104. Now part of

the Department of Homeland Security-the agency said its primary worry is BPL's potential impact on the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) on HF. FNARS is FEMA's primary command and control backup medium under the Federal Response Plan.

"FEMA has concluded that introduction of unwanted interference from the implementation of BPL technology into the high frequency radio spectrum will result in significant detriment to the operation of FEMA radio systems such as FNARS," FEMA asserted. "FNARS radio operators normally

conduct communications with signals that are barely above the ambient noise levels." FNARS HF stations, FEMA said, typically are in residential areas of the sort that BPL might serve.

As part of the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA's perspectives on BPL could carry substantial weight at the FCC, which may issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making as early as February. The FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry has attracted more than 5100 comments-many of them from the amateur community.

FEMA said BPL also could render useless such "essential communications services" as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and the Civil Air Patrol. FEMA and ARRL last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding that focuses on how Amateur Radio may coordinate with the agency in disasters and emergencies.

Calling the HF spectrum "an invaluable and irreplaceable public safety resource," FEMA said there's no current alternative to HF in terms of meeting national security and emergency preparedness requirements at the national, state and local levels. The agency advised the FCC to beef up its Part 15 rules to ensure no increase in interference levels to existing FCC or NTIA-licensed communication systems. Otherwise, FEMA predicted, "any noise increase inevitably would diminish the ability to maintain essential communications" and would "directly impair the safety of life and property."

Likewise, FEMA pointed out, amateur HF transmitters could possibly interfere with and interrupt BPL service, leading consumers not familiar with Part 15 to blame licensed radio services.

Concluded FEMA: "The purported benefits of BPL in terms of expanded services in certain communications sectors do not appear to outweigh the benefit to the overall public of HF radio capability as presently used by government, broadcasting and public safety users."

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/tis/info/html/plc/](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/html/plc/). To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site, <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

## **ARRL LEAGUE LINES**

### **Congressional Recess Provides Opportunity To Promote Amateur Radio Bills**

Just as the US House of Representatives was about to adjourn for the year, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713, picked up three new cosponsors. The addition of Democrats Sander M. Levin of Michigan, Brad Sherman of California and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland brings the cosponsor list to 77. The nation's lawmakers now have headed home and won't be back in Washington until January 20. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, suggests that League members take advantage of the opportunity, while members of Congress are on their home turf, to visit their local offices and urge support for the spectrum protection measure and for the so-called "CC&R bill," HR 1478.

"It wouldn't hurt to stop by and drop off a QSL card with a message asking for support," Haynie said. "That's what it's going to take. Cards and letters from individual voters do make a difference." Judging by the number of cosponsors to date, Haynie says,

the spectrum protection bill appears to be gaining the attention of lawmakers.

Other recent Spectrum Protection Act cosponsors include Anibal Acevedo-Vila (D-PR), Gil Gutknecht (R-MN), Bob Filner (D-CA), Betty McCollum (D-MN) and Brian Baird (D-WA), who signed aboard during November.

Identical versions of the Spectrum Protection Act have been introduced in the House and Senate. The number of cosponsors for the Senate version, S 537, remains at eight. Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the bill would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

Meanwhile, the cosponsor count on the CC&R bill, known formally as HR 1478, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003, is holding at 29. Sponsored by Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), the CC&R bill would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. The ARRL is seeking a sponsor for a companion bill in the US Senate.

For guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/0304046.pdf>> or in the April

2003 issue of QST (p 46).

Additional information, including the bills' texts, sample letters and information on how to write members of Congress, is on The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>> and on the HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003 Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/>>.

Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail to [specbill03@arrl.org](mailto:specbill03@arrl.org). Those writing on behalf of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, are asked to copy their correspondence to [ccr-bill@arrl.org](mailto:ccr-bill@arrl.org).

### Web Program Available To Create Cabrillo Format Logs

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that a Web-based "applet" program <<http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/>> now is available that can create and e-mail contest logs in the Cabrillo file format ARRL requires for contest entries.

"Thanks to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, and the support of several other amateurs, it is now possible for all contest participants to create Cabrillo-format logs on the Web," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "These will allow participants who log on paper or whose logging software will not generate a Cabrillo file to create an electronic log to submit to the League."

The first ARRL contest for which the Web applet is available is the recent 2004 RTTY Roundup <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/rtty.html>>. Henderson says Horn is developing templates for additional ARRL contests, and these will also become available via links from Horn's Cabrillo Web Forms page.

The Web routine first prompts users to provide the required information to create a Cabrillo file header. This includes basic information such as ARRL/RAC section, call sign used, call signs of operators for a multi-op entry, entry class, the operator's name and address and possibly other data. Where appropriate, drop-down boxes allow submitters to select the correct information.

A second screen allows users to input data for each QSO. Users may either manually keystroke the information for each contact or cut and paste it-band, date, time, call sign copied, received RST, received exchange-from another source. A space is necessary between each QSO data element, and each QSO belongs on a separate line.

Once QSO data have been entered, click on the "SUBMIT QSO INFO" button. The program checks for formatting errors, and, if everything is correct, will display the completed file. At that point, users can check their information one last time.

Click the "SUBMIT CABRILLO LOG" button to e-mail the entry automatically to the correct address for the contest. This also will send a record copy of the Cabrillo-formatted log to the user.

Applet-created logs will be processed just as all other log submissions are. If the contest robot finds problems, it will send the appropriate e-mail message to the submitter. If the log is okay, the robot will send a numbered receipt.

Users with questions about the Web applet routine should contact the ARRL Contest Branch via e-mail <contests@arrl.org>. The ARRL thanks Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, for his work in developing this helpful and useful Web application.

## **INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE GETS NEW CHARACTER**

In Geneva on December 5, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M. [MORSE] that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures. It also includes a new Morse code character to cover the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses.

To keep up with the times, however, the IARU proposed adding a new character, the commercial "at" or @ symbol, to permit sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. The draft new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together (-.-.) to represent the @ symbol.

While the draft new recommendation is still a working document, its expected to become a Recommendation within six months or so, pending approval by member-states.

## **DZV'S DITS AND BITS by Tim, WD9DZV**

### **New Quick-Charge NiMH Batteries**

Turning to the latest in electronic products of interest to hams, we have this from battery maker Rayovac. That company has announced a new charger that it says is capable of fully restoring a specially designed Nickel Metal Hydride cell in only 15 minutes. Dubbed the I-C3, the new rechargeable cells and charging system uses Rayovac's In-Cell Charge Control technology that puts the control of recharging into the battery instead of the charger. The company says that doing this offers significant performance and convenience advantages over existing rechargeable and disposable battery systems. More information is on-line at [www.rayovac.com](http://www.rayovac.com) (Rayovac)

## **FCC Still Not "Naming Names" In Enforcement Issues**

The FCC's decision to no longer identify those hams allegedly violating the Part 97 Amateur Rules continues into the new year. The agency's Daryl Duckworth, N-N-Zero- W, has the latest word. Duckworth: "The FCC, at least temporarily, has revised the format in which it is supplying information on Amateur Radio enforcement actions. The new format provides only the state and city with a synopsis of the action taken, without naming any individuals.

Pursuant to privacy concerns, the FCC currently is reviewing its procedures in its radio services regarding the release of information about individuals. Following this review, the FCC will determine its privacy policy for the future. "

## **Intel In Your TV**

And the world's largest microchip maker will soon unveil plans to make integrated circuits for use in digital television receivers. Santa Clara, California based Intel is exploring a technology called liquid crystal on silicon which is a hybrid between the more expensive silicon microchips and liquid crystal displays. This could significantly lower the cost of flat panel high definition displays. Industry analysts say that if this technology is successful it would pose a serious threat to

established consumer electronics chip makers in Europe and Japan, such as Philips and Sony Corp., as well as emerging players like Texas Instruments.

## **DX News**

Keep an ear open for members of a French radio club who will be on the air from Togo. This as the F6KOP Le Radio Club de Provins 77 announce that they plan to be active from Grid Square JJ06 as 5V7C from March 6th to the 12th.

Created on January 17, 2004