

The Chicago FM Club's  
Newsletter

"SQUELCH TALE"

Volume  
2005

Number 12  
December



Christmas & Hanukah  
12/25/2005



## “THE PREZ SEZ”

December is a month we all anticipate. Some of us for its spiritual significance, others just for the festive season. Regardless of which you prefer you have to admit that it's a special time of the year.

I would like to thank all the Officers, Board members, and general membership, which made my job as president this year a rewarding and fun filled time. The two-meter machine is working quite well along with the 440 and 220 thanks to the great job of Radio Rick and the Technical Committee. Radio Expo once again was a success and all because of the countless hours of hard work by you the club members of C.F.M.C.

This months meeting will be the election of our 5 Board of directors. Please come to this very important meeting and exercise your right to vote.

The positions of director are a very important one and we have several very qualified candidates running this year. If you cannot attend the meeting please request an absentee ballot from Dick, K9FFY.

I would like to wish all our members Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings and hope to see you at our next general meeting.

73 de Phil N9PA

### NOVEMBER 2005 FOXHUNT REPORT

It was a perfect fall night for a foxhunt. There were three hunters: Tom N9CBA, Greg N9SA and Charlie KB9DIM and Alexis. Paul N9LXF, Carol and Mike WA9FTS hid in Mike's minivan in Elk Grove Village.

The minivan was partially behind a small trailer in the parking lot of Elk Grove Village H.S. next to a playground. The location was just south of Arlington Hts Rd and west of Elk Grove Blvd. Charlie took a slow route up 1st Ave (171) but then did well getting on I90 west to Arlington Hts Rd and south to find us for the win. I had mentioned that cops were out in force and he saw a motorist pulled over near us. Greg got out of his car south of us and walked across the park to finish 2nd 10 min after Charlie. Tom arrived 6 min later to end the hunt. But I later found out at munchies that he had to stop during the hunt for gas or risk running out. Not a bad performance considering he could have made it close for Charlie if he did not have to stop for gas.

We met at Pizza Hut at Arlington Hts Rd and Biesterfield. Don W9RA joined us.

Results: 1. Charlie KB9DIM, Alexis 43:00 2. Greg N9SA 53:20 3. Tom N9CBA 59:50

### FOR SECOND READING AT THE DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

LARRY JASINEK KB9OOR (N9RKU WB9ZNL)  
ROBERT L EISENHART KD8ANJ (N9PA K9FFY)

### FOR THIRD READING AND VOTE

KEVIN B FITZGERALD KC9GLH (K9KRO KB9AJM)

### NEW MEMBERS

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

DON RUNKOWSKI WA9DTD  
CRAIG DIECKMAN KC9HWK  
MICHAEL MORETH N9OGC

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The election of the Board of Directors for the year 2006-07 will be held at the December general meeting. Gerry, WA9KXZ, asked to have his name removed from the nominations. The list of nominees is as follows;

KC9ENZ	Dennis Krawczak
WA9FTS	Mike Brost
WA9KOD	Joe Genovese
N9KTW	Howard Goldberg
K9VO	Steve Bosnyak
W9XB	Rick Duel

As you can see, there are six (6) names to fill five (5) positions.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The following members renewed during November;

WD9BHP W8EGK KC9ENZ WD9FOG WD9GVU  
W9IVJ K9KRO KF9MY N9QQK K9RCN KF9SP  
KA9TRG N9UZG K9WGN K9YSE N9ZAZ

The following former member chose not to renew;

W9NIX

**TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2005**

Income	
Membership Dues	
Regular Dues	200.00
Senior and >20 years	165.00
Total Membership Dues	365.00
Total Income	365.00
Expense	
Advertising - World Radio	65.00
Amortization Expense	
Link Transmitters	1,631.50
Meetings	1,089.22
Worker Prizes	200.00
Rent	
Rent, Site Rental-1660 LaSalle	24.96
Total Rent	24.96
Squelch Tale November	
Squelch Tale - Postage	63.80
Squelch Tale - Printing	51.60
Total Squelch Tale	115.40
Telephone	
220 control-32	21.55
2mtr & 440 Aon - 073	43.10
440 Control-49	21.55
Ham Help Line-773	32.53
Total Telephone	118.73
Total Expense	3,244.81
Net Ordinary Income	-2,879.81
Net Income	-2,879.81
Available Capital 11/01/05	15,867.59
Net Income November	-2,879.81
Total Available Funds	12,987.78
Respectfully submitted:	
Bob Schiff KA9HHH Treasurer	

**DECEMBER MEETING PROGRAM**

Mr. Ken Panczyk, W9KMP, will be the speaker at the December 21 meeting of the Chicago FM Club. He will share his many experiences with the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network, SATERN, including the efforts along the Gulf Coast in the wake of recent hurricanes. He will also discuss opportunities to get involved with SATERN at various levels and emergency communication training opportunities.

Ken has extensive emergency communication experience with the Salvation Army Metropolitan Division headquartered in Chicago and serving 11 counties. This is a very active unit

and has been activated for many local and national emergencies.

Ken, a former teacher and school administrator, has been an amateur operator since 1969. He is an avid CW operator and scuba diving instructor & enthusiast.

More information about SATERN may be found at its website:<http://satern.org>

**MEANINGFUL ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE PRIVILEGES ARE TOP PRIORITY, ARRL SAY**

The ARRL again has urged the FCC to provide meaningful operating privileges to entry-level Amateur Radio licensees, including access to HF, even if the Commission doesn't want to create a new license class. Commenting in response to the FCC's July 9 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, the League also stood by its stance that the Commission retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra applicants, but do away with it for General applicants.

"Retaining Morse telegraphy as a requirement for only the Amateur Extra class license, in ARRL's view, places Morse telegraphy in a proper, balanced perspective," the League told the Commission October 31, the deadline to comment in the proceeding. Reply comments are due November 14.

The FCC's NPRM&O proposed eliminating the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes but denied requests to create a new entry-level license class with limited HF privileges. The League said the FCC needs to finish the job of license restructuring it began in 1998 by reviewing operating privileges for all classes—especially at the first rung of the licensing ladder.

"The elimination of Morse telegraphy, absent a more thorough review of operating privileges in the Amateur Service, will not address the ascertained flaws in the only entry-level license class," the ARRL asserted, referring to the Technician license. "That license class is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration, and it needs fixing right now."

The ARRL argued that if the FCC will not create a new Novice class licensees the League had suggested in its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) in the proceeding, it should modify Technician operating privileges instead. The present licensing regime limits Technicians to VHF bands and above, "leaving newcomers to the Amateur Service isolated from their peers holding higher class licenses," the ARRL said. "The Technician class is, for too many, a 'dead end' to what might otherwise be an active, progressive interest in Amateur Radio, technical self-training and incentive-based educational progress in the many facets of the avocation."

The ARRL reminded the FCC that its restructuring plan enjoyed the support of the two Amateur Radio licensees in Congress—Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR).

Eliminating the Morse requirement for General class applicants "creates an anomaly with respect to the Technician class license," the ARRL noted. "If the telegraphy requirement for the

General class license is eliminated, the distinction between the Technician class licensee and the Technician Plus class licensee will have disappeared completely.” Therefore, the League contends, there is a logical basis for affording Technician licensees entry-level HF privileges.

Under the ARRL plan, Technicians would have telegraphy and data privileges on 3.55-3.7 MHz, 7.05-7.125 MHz and 21.05-21.20 MHz at 100 W output and on 28.05-28.3 MHz at 50 W output. The League wants the FCC to provide HF phone and image privileges to Technicians on 3.9-4.0 MHz, 7.2-7.3 MHz and 21.35-21.45 MHz at 100 W output, and on 28.3-28.5 MHz at 50 W.

These recommended privileges take into account the FCC’s proposal to adopt the ARRL’s so-called “Novice reformatting” plan in WT Docket 04-140. The ARRL had earlier proposed the same privileges for a reconstituted Novice license.

The time is right to take a look at the operating privileges of Amateur Radio license classes, the ARRL said in its filing, “because the entry-level license class is demonstrably neither attractive to newcomers nor encouraging in terms of retaining the interest of license holders.”

To back up its assertions, the League pointed to surveys it conducted in 1992 and 2003. Nearly half of the licensees responding in the latter poll indicated that they were not

currently active in Amateur Radio—up 30 percent from the earlier survey. “The number of inactive Technician class licensees is 46 percent,” the ARRL noted, adding that more than a quarter of

Technicians responding in 2003 said they’d never even been on the air.

The League pointed out that the FCC’s proposed across-the-board elimination of the Morse requirement eliminates a simple mechanism for current Technician licensees to obtain HF operating privileges—passing the 5 WPM code exam.

If the FCC does nothing other than eliminate the Morse requirement for the General license, the ARRL commented, it would make no sense to continue to deprive Technician licensees the HF operating privileges that Tech Plus licensees now enjoy.

“To do otherwise is to draw a distinction that is entirely arbitrary,” the League concluded.

### ’T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas, and all through two-meters, Not a signal was keying up any repeaters. The antennas reached up from the tower, quite high, to catch the weak signals that bounced from the sky. The children, Tech-Pluses, took their HT’s to bed, and dreamed of the day they’d be Extras, instead. Mom put on her headphones, I plugged in the key, and we tuned 40 meters for that rare ZK3. When the meter was pegged by a signal with power. It smoked a small diode, and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones, and with all she could muster Logged a spot of the signal

On the DX PacketCluster.

While I ran to the window and peered up at the sky, to see what could generate RF that high.

It was way in the distance, but the moon made it gleam - a flying sleigh, with an eight element beam.

And a little old driver who looked slightly mean. So I thought for a moment, that it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa, the Santa of Hams. On a mission, this Christmas to clean up the bands.

He circled the tower, then stopped in his track, and he slid down the coax right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid behind stacks of QST’s and CQ’s, this Santa of hamming knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk of paper and parts, and filled out all my late QSLs for a start.

He ran copper braid, took a steel rod and pounded it into the earth, till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings, resoldered connections, cranked down modulation, installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes in my linear amp... (never worked

right before — now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter cleaned up the TV, he corrected the settings in my TNC.

### ROSTER

The latest roster of the Chicago FM Club will be included in the January issue of Squelch Tale. If there is a change you would like in your listing, I MUST have them by the last weekend of December.

He repaired the computer that would not compute, and he backed up the hard drive and got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep in the bag that he brought, and he pulled out a big box, “A new rig?” I thought!

“A new Kenwood? An Icom? A Yaesu, for me?!” (If he thought I’d been bad it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station! How could I deserve this?

Could it be all those hours that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up and in record time, quickly worked 100 countries, all down on 160.

I should have been happy, it was my call he sent, but the cards and the postage will cost two month’s rent!

He made final adjustments, and left a card by the key: “To Gary, from Santa Claus. Seventy-Three.”

Then he grabbed his HT, looked me straight in the eye, punched a code on the pad, and was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station, and the pile-up was big, but a card from St. Nick would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final came over the air. It was copied all over. It was heard everywhere.

The Ham’s Santa exclaimed what a ham might expect, “Merry Christmas to all, and to all, good DX.”

# January 2006

## What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

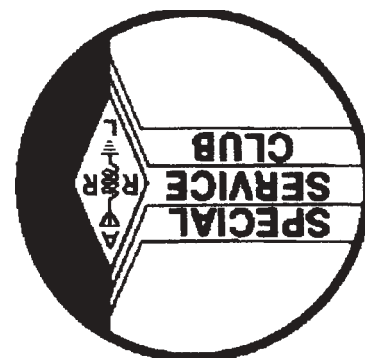
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	<b>4</b> BOARD MEETING Location *TBA N9UZG W9FUF	<b>5</b> W9EBE	<b>6</b> KB9TIC W9JXT WA9DGY	<b>7</b>																																																																																																		
<b>8</b> WD9JKW	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> WA5JCJ	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> N9TQA WW9K																																																																																																		
<b>15</b> KB9QLP WB9RYY WY9U	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King, Jr.	<b>17</b> Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ WA9TKA	<b>18</b> GENERAL MEETING Location *TBA VEC Testing Tonight N9IPH N9VGW	<b>19</b> K9FFY	<b>20</b> KC9GNQ	<b>21</b> FOX HUNT Harlem Cermak Shopping Center 7:00pm KB9VNR WA9KXZ																																																																																																		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> KF9HE N9PRG	<b>24</b> Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	<b>25</b> K9KRO	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> KC9EQP	<b>28</b> WB9JNZ																																																																																																		
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">December 05</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		December 05							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 06</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		February 06							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
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Members Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month!

\* TBA = To Be Announced



AFFILIATED CLUB



Address Correction Requested

**CHICAGO FM CLUB**  
**PO BOX 1532**  
**EVANSTON IL 60204**

**OFFICERS**

**President**

Phil Amato N9PA

**Vice President**

James Small WA9EMY

**Secretary**

Dick Hersh K9FFY

**Treasurer**

Bob Schiff KA9HHH

**Board of Directors**

Joe Genovese WA9KOD

Howard Goldberg N9KTW

Steve Bosnyak K9VO

Rick Duel W9XB

**Trustee**

Howard Goldberg N9KTW

**Chairmen**

Fox Hunts WA9FTS

Ham Help K9FFY

Programs KB9AJM

Radio Expo WA9EMY

Refreshments N9KTW

Squelch Tale K9FFY

Technical W9XB

VE Testing NK9A

**CHICAGO FM CLUB**

The Chicago FM Club is a not for profit Amateur Radio Club operating the WA9ORC/R repeater systems. Membership is open to all licensed Amateurs and is encouraged of those who use the repeaters. Annual dues are \$25.00 (\$15.00 65 years or older).

For information on the Chicago FM Club and its repeater systems, call the club "Ham Help" line (773) 262-6773 and leave your complete name, address and call sign. Ask for the Info Pack and it will be sent out shortly in the mail or can be sent via e-mail.

**SQUELCH TALE**

Squelch Tale is the monthly publication of the Chicago FM Club. It is available on an exchange basis or by subscription to anyone outside CFMC's coverage area. Ad space is available. Write for further details. Permission is given to reprint any original Squelch Tale material providing credit is given and "Tale" is not spelled "Tail". We welcome all new information of interest and technical articles. The deadline for publication is the first weekend after the first Wednesday of every month My e-mail address is [dick6614@aol.com](mailto:dick6614@aol.com)

**REPEATERS**

**146.16/.76MHZ PL Access 107.2 (1B)**

The Transmitter is located on the Aon Center in downtown Chicago with an antenna height of 1300 feet. The nine receiver sites are located in Chicago, Park Ridge, Schaumburg, Worth, Waukegan, Barrington, Downers Grove, Lake Calumet and Joliet. Short QSO's are encouraged during morning and evening rush hours. AutoPatch and EchoLink are available to members in good standing. Write for details and access codes. Breakers should be allowed immediate access.

**222.50/224.10MHZ Carrier Access**

On site located 3 miles north of Chicago's Loop. AutoPatch is available to members in good standing. Breakers should be allowed immediate access.

**222.58/224.18MHZ Carrier Access**

On site in Worth, IL. Breakers should be allowed immediate access.

**448.75/443.75MHZ PL Access 114.8 (2A)**

On site at the Aon Center. AutoPatch and EchoLink are available to members in good standing. Breakers should be allowed immediate access.