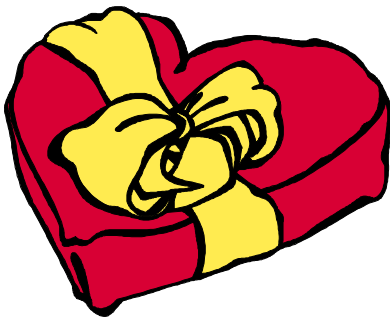


The Chicago FM Club's  
Newsletter

"SQUELCH TALE"

**Volume  
2005  
Number 2  
February**



*Happy Valentine's Day*



## ***THE PREZ SEZ***

According to Tom Skilling from WGN news there is a nice high-pressure system pushing in from the Pacific Northwest. This along with the southwestern direction of the jet stream will cause warmer air in the Midwest and the Chicagoland area. Sounds pretty good! It always nice to anticipate warmer weather.

Since the last newsletter we have had the 440 machine's controller lock up and put it off the air. Radio Rick and his tech personnel came to the rescue and made repairs. Jerry WA9KXZ and Joe WA9KOD are working on making a relay that can be installed at the transmitter to allow us to reset the controller. This is just one

*Continued on Page Two*

**The Prez Sez continued**

example of what a few people do for the club. Just imagine if we could harness the imagination and expertises of everyone in the Chicago FM Club!

If you would like to volunteer, give a program at one of the meetings, or just simply come to a meeting and support the club, now is the time.

I'm sure everyone is anticipating the return of spring and I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next general meeting.

73 de Phil N9PA.

**January 2005 CMC Foxhunt**

The fox, N9CBA, hid at the eastern base of a water tower. The antenna was a 3-element Yagi pointing straight up to bounce the signal from the flared high part of the water tower. The radio provided about 25 watts, so the signal at the starting point 6 miles away was strong. N41.849 W87.901

Mike and Paul had a due west reading from the starting point, so they went west on Cermak.

Charlie thought the fox was southwest, so headed out that way, and took a while to make his way back north.

We munched 0.6 miles to the NE of the hiding spot at Buena Beef on Wolf, just north of Cermak.  
Release 8:04

1. Mike WA9FTS and Paul N9LXF 8:20
2. Chuck KA9KZO 8:31
3. Greg N9SA 8:50
- 4 Charlie KB9DIM and Alexis 9:05

**January General Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm. Introductions of the members followed. There were 19 members at the meeting. Bob, KA9HHH, gave his financial report (look elsewhere for report). Rick, W9XB was absent as he was checking out the 440MHZ repeater. K9VO made a motion

to tell KB9QVS he no longer could use the CFMC repeaters. KA9TRG seconded the motion and the members voted yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm and refreshments were served.

**FOR FIRST READING AT THE FEBRYARY****GENERAL MEETING**

N9SMN	GEORGE MAAG	(N9PA K9FFY)
KC9HAE	VIDAS JAMSIKIS	(N9PA K9FFY)

**FOR SECOND READING**

W9LUO	MARILYN GARDNER	(N9PA K9FFY)
AB9DD	EMIL J BALZANO	(N9PA 9FFY)

**FOR THIRD READING AND VOTE**

N9VIZ	LAWRENCE HUGHES	(N9PA K9FFY)
KC9GVC	OSWALDO BARBOSA	(N9PA K9FFY)
KB9JGY	ROLAND J HOEHN	(N9PA K9FFY)
KG9CL	CARL BROADY	(N9PA K9FFY)
W9CHI	R. SCOTT CHILDERS	(N9PA K9FFY)

**MEMBERSHIP RENWALS**

The following CFMC members renewed during January;

KC9AVM W9BMK WD7DKX WD9GIX KB9JIO  
WD9JKW KB9KJ WA9KUK WA9LST W9MUF  
WB9PJW WB9PTA KB9QPQ N9RWD KB9SO  
WA9TWA WY9U N9VGW KC9YG N9ZON

The following former members chose not to renew;  
WA9AYQ KA9R K9KRO

**Treasurer's Report January 2005****Income**

Dues	\$295.00
------	----------

**Expenses**

P.O. Box Rental	\$26.00
Meeting Refreshments	\$10.88
Squelch Tail Printing	\$310.08

---

\$346.96

**Expenses vs Income**

\$51.35 -

**Available Capital**

Checking	\$14,378.34
Cash on hand	\$167.85

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\$14,546.19

\$51.35 -

**Total Available Funds**

\$14,494.84

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Schiff KA9HHH Treasurer

## FCC CITES HOMEOWNERS FOR CAUSING INTERFERENCE TO RADIO AMATEUR

Things aren't all that friendly in one Friendswood, Texas, neighborhood, where a dispute over interference from one couple's battery chargers to a neighboring radio amateur has resulted in an official FCC Citation to the couple. The December 10 Citation is the latest chapter in a long-running dispute that FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth has described as "an unfortunate neighborhood situation." The Citation sprang from complaints by ARRL member William Cooper, W5ZAF, that his next-door neighbors' battery chargers were interfering with his ham radio activities. The FCC concurred.

"Investigation by the FCC's Houston Office revealed that on December 7, 2004, you were operating battery charging devices at your residence," the Citation said. "These devices were observed to be generating radio frequency pulses on various high-frequency radio bands. These radio frequency pulses were determined to be causing harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service." Only after FCC agents visited the couple's home did the interference cease. The FCC did not make the couple's names public nor did it post the Citation on its Web site.

The ARRL Laboratory has been working with the FCC and Cooper to help broker a resolution to the interference issue. FCC Part 15 rules regulating "unintentional radiators" require that the operator of such devices must cease operation upon FCC notification that it's causing harmful interference. "Operation may not resume until the condition causing the harmful interference has been corrected," the FCC said.

Since it began about a year ago—when Cooper first suspected the interference he was hearing came from his neighbors' Christmas lights—the squabble has escalated beyond the interference issue. Both parties have hired attorneys, and volumes of correspondence have changed hands. Last September, the couple complained that Cooper's antenna support structure violated homeowners' association covenants.

After notices from the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau went unanswered, Hollingsworth issued warning notices to the couple last June and September alleging that the battery chargers—apparently used to charge some electric scooters—were causing interference. Cooper provided his neighbors with free toroid core devices that resolved the interference, but the couple subsequently removed them. The couple told Hollingsworth they'd initially been willing to work with

Cooper but took out the filters after he allegedly made disparaging remarks about them to another neighbor and took photos of their house and property.

Hollingsworth responded by emphasizing that it's the couple's responsibility to correct the interference—whether or not they accept Cooper's help. Simply unplugging the chargers when not in use—as they had suggested—was not an acceptable solution, he told them in his final Warning Notice. Cooper claimed the chargers had been operating 24 hours a day.

The FCC Citation, which does not require a response from the couple, warned that subsequent violations could lead to fines, equipment seizure and even possible criminal sanctions.

## ARRL MAKES RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT AVAILABLE

The ARRL has released a topical public service announcement (PSA) for use by radio stations. The 30-second PSA may be downloaded free from the League's Web site in either .wav <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/Allen-PSA0105.wav>> or .mp3 <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/Allen-PSA0105.mp3>> formats.

"Ham radio works when other communications don't," is its central message. Conceived, written and voiced by ARRL Media and Publications Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the PSA focuses on Amateur Radio's role in emergency communication—including activity by South Asia amateurs in the wake of the devastating earthquake and tsunami.

"It is directed at getting people who are community-minded to look into becoming hams," Pitts commented. He urged ARRL Public Information Coordinators and Officers to aid in distributing the announcement to broadcasters. The PSA invites anyone interested in becoming a radio amateur to contact ARRL via its toll-free number, 800-326-3942. For additional information contact Allen Pitts, W1AGP.

## ARRL REBUTS DENIAL OF INTERFERENCE FROM BPL TRIAL, DECRIES FCC INACTION

The ARRL has questioned the veracity and technical competence of the company operating a Westchester, New York, BPL field trial. It's also faulted the FCC for not shutting the system down. In December, after an on-site determination by ARRL Lab personnel and a local amateur that BPL interference on 14 MHz had reappeared, the League renewed its request that the FCC rescind its Part 5 Experimental license for Ambient Corporation's BPL pilot in Briarcliff Manor. Ambient told

the FCC in October that it had addressed Amateur Radio interference complaints through improved software and notching, and it repeated that claim January 6, saying it was unable to detect the interference ARRL reported hearing. In a strongly worded rebuttal that cited "obvious and preclusive" interference along one BPL-active stretch of road, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, questioned Ambient's credibility and competence.

"Ambient's claim that it was unable to find that noise in December is not credible," Imlay wrote January 7 on the League's behalf. "If they were in fact unable to find the noise, their technical staff is not competent." The League said that Ambient's October 12 representation to the FCC that it had corrected "all harmful interference" from the system "has proven most assuredly false." Additionally, the League noted, an FCC Enforcement Bureau staffer also has visited the site and could attest to the interference observed on 14 MHz.

In its January 6 response, Ambient claimed it was "unable to confirm the high signal levels" and said 80, 40, 30, 20, 15 and 10 meters "continue to be notched." Ambient also objected to ARRL's assertion that the signals constitute "harmful interference" and suggested the League was improperly using the FCC's complaint procedures.

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

**Alpha/Power again in new hands:** Alpha Radio Products LLC has announced an agreement with CrossLink Inc and Alpha/Power Inc to take over production and support of the Alpha/Power line of linear amplifiers and related products. A January 20 Alpha Radio Products press release says Alpha/Power will return to its roots and dedicate itself solely to providing high-power RF equipment "for the professional and serious amateur markets." CrossLink acquired the linear amplifier manufacturer in late 2000. Alpha Radio cited "declining business prospects for CrossLink" for making the ownership change necessary. Alpha Radio President Molly Hardman, WOMOM, assured all current Alpha amplifiers owners that their warranty and service needs will be met. The company says it will continue to employ "the same excellent technicians and assemblers" and manufacture and service its products in the current Boulder, Colorado, location. Chief Engineer Gordon Hardman, WORUN, said Alpha Radio will focus on better control, interface and support components for its amplifiers while leaving primary tube-related components "unchanged and true to their heritage." For more information, visit the Alpha Radio Products Web site <<http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/>> or call 303-473-9232.

**A Brazilian programmer has made** the source code for the Cabir mobile phone virus available online. Cabir is a malicious worm that infects phones using the Symbian operating system. Its the same worm that caused skulls to appear on Nokia phones as reported by us a few weeks ago.

Anti virus providers say that Cabir was first created in June 2003. New variants recently were reported that show the worm has evolved into a faster-spreading threat than originally thought. The source code for Cabir.H and Cabir.I was publicized online in Brazil after a programmer there claimed he received repeated requests for the Cabir code from other virus hobbyists. The release of Cabir code is of concern in the security community. Because of the code's availability researchers expect to see many more variants created in the next few months, which could lead to a much larger virus threat to cellphone users.

Early versions of Cabir were passed only from one phone to another, and were considered sluggish in their spread. But now the worm has been modified, experts say it can spread to multiple phones and replicate itself at a speedy rate. Already the Finnish antivirus firm F-Secure has issued a warning against mounting virus attacks on numerous advanced technology mobile phones.

**A three-dimensional flat-screen display** could be coming to a computer near you. That is, if you are willing to pay the price. Sharp Systems of America has introduced a new flat-screen computer display that delivers three-D images. The 15-inch L-C-D display doesn't require the user to put on special glasses. Instead, a special layer in the display allows users to switch between two-D and three-D modes. This helps create three-D illusions regardless of whether images were created in three-D.

Analysts say it's the first three-D screen for consumers. Previously, the technology was produced for the medical and scientific industries. Oh yes, the price. It will go for almost 15-hundred dollars or about a hundred dollars an inch.

**Toot your own horn time:** Seems that Tim, WD9DZV placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 9<sup>th</sup> area for the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest low power category, 15 meter single band

# March 2005

## What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

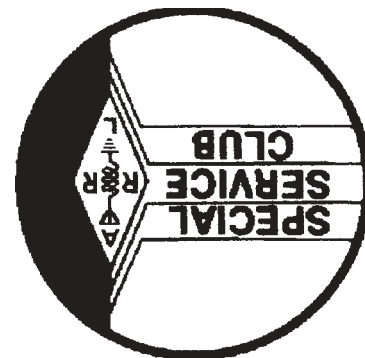
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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">S</td> <td style="border: none;">M</td> <td style="border: none;">T</td> <td style="border: none;">W</td> <td style="border: none;">T</td> <td style="border: none;">F</td> <td style="border: none;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;">1</td> <td style="border: none;">2</td> <td style="border: none;">3</td> <td style="border: none;">4</td> <td style="border: none;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">6</td> <td style="border: none;">7</td> <td style="border: none;">8</td> <td style="border: none;">9</td> <td style="border: none;">10</td> <td style="border: none;">11</td> <td style="border: none;">12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">13</td> <td style="border: none;">14</td> <td style="border: none;">15</td> <td style="border: none;">16</td> <td style="border: none;">17</td> <td style="border: none;">18</td> <td style="border: none;">19</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">20</td> <td style="border: none;">21</td> <td style="border: none;">22</td> <td style="border: none;">23</td> <td style="border: none;">24</td> <td style="border: none;">25</td> <td style="border: none;">26</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">27</td> <td style="border: none;">28</td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> </table> </div>	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						<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p>Saturn Net at 8:00pm  <b>CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ</b>  <i>KB9YRE</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>BOARD MEETING</b>                      Location *TBA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p><i>W9TUD</i>  <i>WA9KOD</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p>	
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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**

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**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

Radio Expo WA9EMY

Refreshments N9KTW

Squelch Tale K9FFY

Technical W9XB

VE Testing KA9HHH

**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

**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.