

The Chicago FM Club's
Newsletter

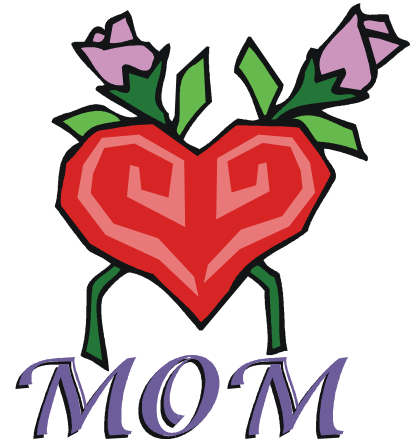
"SQUELCH TALE"

Volume
2005
Number 5
May



*Memorial Day
May 30, 2005*

*Mothers Day
May 8, 2005*



"THE PREZ SEZ"

May is a transitional month where we go from spring to summer. Although my favorite time of year is spring I still look forward to the fun of summer. Our summers in Chicago can be blistering hot or cool and mild. Either way Mother Nature makes the choice for us.

The members of CFMC have the ability to make their own choices when it comes to club activities. This month our general meeting will be held at the Edgebrook field house. I have been asking for members to come forward for years and have had very little success in recruiting people to hold office, chair a committee, or take on a position which serves the club except for the cadre of officers and board members who have held some of the same offices for many years. Once again it is up to you the members to make our club a success.

Don't forget that field day is right around the corner. As of this time we still do not have a field day chairman. I have secured the field day site and the equipment is being checked out, what we need is someone with some organizing skills to step forward and take charge. We will also need people to set up, operate, and tear down. If you've never experienced field day, now is the time.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting.



**FOR THIRD READING AT THE
MAY GENERAL MEETING**

N9SXS MARVIN MICHNIK (N9PA K9FFY)

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 April general meeting;

N9SMN GEORGE MAAG
W9RXI ROBERT IZQUIERDO

MAY GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

Here is the presentation that Rob KB5MSN will give this month at the May meeting: "Radio Mobile"

It is coverage prediction software that uses topographic data to help in the computation and outputs everything in a graphical format.

TREASURERS REPORT APRIL 2005

Income	Membership Dues	
Regular Dues		150.00
Senior and <20 years		15.00
Total Membership Dues		165.00
Total Income		165.00
Expenses	Expo Expenses	
Expo 2005 Postage		4.30
Expo Printing and Reproduction		532.72
Total Expo Expenses		537.02
Meetings - Refreshments		11.30
April Squelch Tale		
Squelch Tale - Postage		66.60
Squelch Tale - Printing		86.05
Total Squelch Tale		152.65
Telephone		
220 control-32		19.78
2mtr & 440 Aon - 073		39.58
440 Control-49		19.78
Ham Help Line-773		22.25
Total Telephone		101.39
Total Expense		977.37
Net Income April		-812.37
Available Capital	4/01/05	14,471.66
Net Income March		-812.37
Total Available Funds		13,659.29
Respectfully submitted:		
Bob Schiff	KA9HHH	Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The following CFMC members renewed during April:

KA2CSH AB9H WV2JC WI9L N9NXJ K9OB
K9VO

The following former member chose not to renew:

K9RLF

MAY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The May Board meeting was held at Colletti's Restaurant. Those in attendance were;

N9PA WA9EMY K9FFY KA9HHH WA9KOD
N9KTW K9VO W9XB WA9FTS

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

SECRETARY

K9FFY

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

TREASURER

KA9HHH

Bob gave the Board his report on the financial condition of the Club (in left column). As of now, we only require one signature on our CD's Bob made a motion to require only one signature on our checks. WA9EMY seconded the motion. The Board cast 4 votes yes and 3 votes no. The Motion carried.

TECHNICAL

W9XB

The 440mhz Repeater is up and running. The 2 Meter amplifier is off. The 220mhz Repeater is off frequency and will be looked into. Rick would like to purchase a new 2 Meter Transmitter pack.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

K9VO said there is a person using the repeater that, as far as he can find out, has no license. He is using a callsign that is licensed to someone not living in this area. If you think you might be talking to this person, stop immediately.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

APRIL 2005 CFMC FOXHUNT N9CBA

The fox Tom N9CBA was on foot behind trees about 300 feet east of 25th Avenue and a little north of the overpass north of North Avenue. The fox was south of an oval tank, The fox was about 10 feet west of a chain link fence on the west edge of the rail yard.

The 3-element Yagi antenna was about 10 degrees off of horizontal polarization and the mast was pointing about 20 degrees upward. This caused a lot of reflections for the vertical hunt antennas. It did not help the vertical repeater receive antennas either.

Originally the Icom mobile was in its lowest power (5-watt) setting, but was raised to 25 watts when Charlie reported that the signal was not good into the repeater. Munchies were at Russell's Barbecue.

There will be no CFMC hunt in May due to Dayton, and Charlie will hide in June. New hunters are encouraged to contact Mike or others for information and/or help. Release at 8:05

1. Charlie KB9DIM 8:55
2. Mike WA9FTS Paul N9LXF

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Here is the solution to last month's Crossword Puzzle. How did you do?

1	T	2	I	3	M	4	E			5	X	6	C		7	W	8	A	9	C	10	K		11	B				
		10	F	11	A	12	X			11	R	12	E	13	A		14	Y		15	A		16	E	17	U			
14	R		15	N	16	A	17	M		18	E		19	T	20	E		21	N	22	E		23	W	24	S			
	E		19	Y	20	M		21	A	22	Z		23	L	24		25	L	26	C	27	R		28	Y				
22	C	23	D		24	S	25	D		26	F	27	A	28	S	29	T	30	E	31	R		32	O	33	B			
27	E	E		28	H	29	E	30	A	31	R		32	Y	33	L		34	L	35	O		36	B	37	E			
32	I	33	M		34	A	35	B		36	S	37	O	38	S		39	R		40	M		41						
36	P	37	O	38	S	39	I	40	T	41	I	42	O	43	N		44	W	45	H	46	O		47	B	48	B		
	T		41	T		42	S	43	L		44	O	45	N		46	E		47	A	48	A		49	R	50	E		
		45	B	46	O	47	T		48	I	49	N	50	T	51	E	52	R	53	F	54	E	55	R	56	E	57	D	
50	R	51	E	52	P	53	O	54	R	55	T		56	H	57	T		58	T	59	X		60	A		61			
54	E	55	T	56	P	57	A	58	Y		I		59	F	60	C	61	A	62	K	63	E		64		65			
	L		60	F		61	I		62	K	63	N		64	U	65	U	66	N	67	O		68		69		70		
63	A	64	G	65	A	66	I	67	N		68	I	69	G		70	L	71	I	72	S	73	T	74	E	75	N		
67	Y	68	E	69	A	70	S	71	E	72	T		73	P	74	L	75	E	76	I	77	S		78		79		80	

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2005 INTRODUCED

At the urging of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced The Amateur Radio Spectrum Act of 2005 into the US House of Representatives. The bill, designated HR 691, has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee where Bilirakis serves as vice chairman. Like previous versions of the proposal, the current measure 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. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed his appreciation to Bilirakis this week.

"As president of the American Radio League and on behalf of the more than 670,000 federally licensed Amateur Radio operators throughout the country, I would like to thank you for once again sponsoring the 'Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act,'" Haynie told the Florida Republican. "As you know, this legislation is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Rep Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) has signed on as the bill's first co-sponsor. Bartlett chairs the Projection Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. One of three scientists in the 109th Congress, Bartlett also is a senior member of the House Science Committee.

Efforts now will focus on attracting additional cosponsors for the legislation. The League is encouraging members to urge their congressional representatives to sign aboard HR 691. A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr-691-sample-letter.html>>. More than 100 lawmakers agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress, where it was designated HR 713. Work is proceeding to have identical legislation introduced in the US Senate.

The text of HR 691 is available on the Government Printing Office Web site <<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi->

[bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h691ih.txt.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/0304046.pdf).

For general 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>>.

ARRL HOPES CONSENT DECREE WILL REDUCE INTERFERENCE COMPLAINTS

The FCC has agreed to terminate enforcement action against an importer and marketer of heated mattress pads and blankets—and associated external switching power supplies—in exchange for the company’s signature on a Consent Decree. The case involved numerous interference complaints from Amateur Radio operators and others related to consumer products marketed by Perfect Fit Industries (PFI) of Charlotte, North Carolina.

“The Enforcement Bureau and PFI have negotiated the terms of a Consent Decree that would resolve this matter and terminate the investigation,” the FCC announced in releasing an Order in the proceeding February 10. The Order includes a copy of the Consent Decree. PFI also will make a “voluntary contribution” of \$7000 to the US treasury.

ARRL Laboratory Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, said the League has been receiving an increasing number of reports from radio amateurs about interference from modern switching-type power supplies. Ironically, one complaint came from Gruber’s boss—ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, whose wife had purchased one of the blankets. Hare says a further irony involves the FCC’s reaction in this case to an apparent Part 15 emissions violation.

“It’s paradoxical that an electric blanket marketer is getting this level of FCC attention for a conducted emission that’s less than 1 percent of the power level BPL manufacturers have told the FCC they use in their installations,” he commented.

The ARRL Lab examined one of the offending blankets, which emitted a ticking sound even while turned off but still plugged into the ac outlet. Gruber noted that many products of this type appear to be made overseas and do not carry the required labeling described in Part 15 of the FCC’s rules. Owing to negligence or ignorance of the FCC requirements for conducted and radiated emissions limits, he says, some of these devices may operate at levels significantly higher than the rules permit.

“We hope this case will serve as a reminder to other manufacturers that their switching supplies need to be tested for compliance with the rules and carry the proper labeling as required by Part 15,” Gruber said. But, he added, FCC’s Part 15 limits are not a cure-all for interference—an assertion borne out in other cases involving interference from unlicensed devices

such as broadband over power line (BPL) interference or common power line noise.

“On the contrary, the limits are set high enough that interference—as was seen in cases involving these products—is likely,” he pointed out. “Part 15 requires that operators of unlicensed devices that cause harmful interference must take whatever steps are necessary to correct the interference or cease operation whenever interference occurs.”

As part of the Consent Decree, PFI will put into place an FCC “Regulatory Compliance Plan” with an eye toward ensuring future compliance. Among other things, the company will have to designate a compliance officer to administer the plan. PFI further agreed to replace free of charge any noncompliant mattress pad or heated blanket with a compliant product upon receipt of an interference complaint.

In addition, PFI will agree that its electric mattress pads and blankets and associated external switching power supplies will comply with FCC Part 2 and Part 15 rules before they’re imported and marketed. The Consent Decree is good for three years.

Signing the Consent Decree for the FCC was Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon. PFI President and CEO Louis R. Morris signed on the company’s behalf.

Sound recordings of the electric blanket and mattress pad RFI are available on the RF Noise Identification Web site <<http://ve3hls.tripod.com/noise/rfihome.html>> operated by VE3HLS.

DZV’S DITS AND BITS by Tim, WD9DZV

“Cardless” Five-Band DXCC testimony to Logbook of the World’s value: New Hampshire contest station KC1XX (chief op Matt Strelow) recently achieved Five-Band DXCC solely through contact data submitted to the ARRL’s Logbook of the World (LoTW). With more than 255,000 QSOs already in the worldwide contact database, KC1XX recently was able to confirm 100 DXCC entities on 80 meters to qualify for the award. Because most participants have linked their DXCC data into LoTW, it is not always possible to determine band totals derived solely from Logbook confirmations. Major contest stations like KC1XX serve to demonstrate the value of participating in LoTW, however, because these stations frequently do not have DXCC, and their totals are due entirely to LoTW-verified contacts. The largely single-op contesting and DX station of John Sluymer, VE3EJ, in Ontario also has qualified for 5BDXCC through LoTW-verified QSOs, while several others are closing in on achieving 5BDXCC using the same route. Meanwhile, Brian Alsop, K3KO, in North Carolina, has already confirmed 221 DXCC entities entirely via LoTW

June 2005

What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

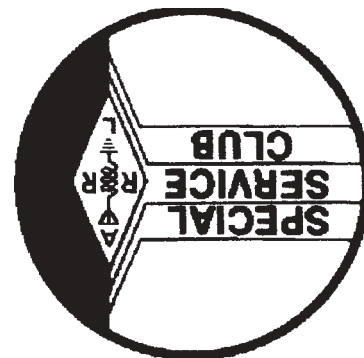
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div>		1	2	3 KA9CSO	4	
5	6 WA9KLF	7 Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHz	8	9	10 KB9G UC KU9Z N9ALE	11
12 WA9CJZ	13	14 Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHz KB9RTP W19L Flag Day	15 GENERAL MEETING Location *TBA VEC Testing Tonight KD9MF	16 KB9QPQ N9BCO WA9KJE	17 KB9JDV	18 FOX HUNT Harlem Cermak Shopping Center 7:00pm KA9ABU KA9ZZA
19 Father's Day	20	21 Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHz	22 KB9YEK	23	24	25 FELD DAY STARTS
26	27 KB9RWQ	28 Saturn Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHz N9HIN W9XB	29 N9WSA	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> July 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 </div>	

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

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Bob Schiff KA9HHH

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Joe Genovese WA9KOD

Howard Goldberg N9KTW

Rich Roberts KA9R

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Fox Hunts WA9FTS

Ham Help K9FFY

Meeting 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

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.