

The Chicago FM Club's
Newsletter

"SQUELCH TALE"

**Volume
2006
Number 12
December**

CHANUKAH
12-15-2006



CHRISTMAS
12-25-2006



KWANZAA
12-26-2006



“THE PREZ SEZ”

As many of you already know, this will be my last Prez Sez column. After 7 consecutive terms (14 years) I have decided not to accept the nomination for President.

I have known Jim WA9EMY for many years now and he is capable and ready to take on the challenges of running the club. I have assured Jim that my dedication to CFMC will be the same and that my experience is his for the asking.

This being my swan song I would like to mention some people that helped make my tenure as President rewarding and successful:

Dick K9FFY for his fortitude in being Secretary for so many years and my sounding board for tough decisions, Art AD9O (Silent Key) for being my mentor and showing me the inner workings of running a club, Mike WA9FTS for his ability to take on tasks that no one else wanted and making them look easy, Howard N9KTW for stepping forward and becoming trustee and his tenure at Tuesday night nets, Radio Rick W9XB for his technical expertise and being so generous with his time, Mike KG9C and Nila N1LA in their starting of the VE program, my good friends Jerry WA9KXZ for his ability to unlock the mysteries of the cat controller and echo link, and Joe WA9KOD for always having time to help out and give an encouraging word.

There are many more members, too numerous to mention, that have given their time and effort to make the club a success. You know who you are.

In closing please know that my loyalty and dedication to CFMC will not change with the passing of the gavel. To show your support to the new officers please come to our general meeting in December.

73 de Phil N9PA

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:

K9CDL	DANIEL TROLIA
W9DMW	DON WONDOLKOWSKI
W9GHZ	JULIUS HORACE
KC9IQY	DARREN MENDE
KC9KAP	KELLY McSHANE
KA9OWC	MICHAEL BRAGEN
W9SEA	STEVE ALEXANDER

**November 2006 CFMC Foxhunt
by Mike WA9FTS**

Tom N9CBA gave the hunters a good strong signal to start the hunt. The weather was great and just cool enough.

There were 5 hunt teams: Tony AA9CC, Greg N9SA, Charlie KB9DIM and Alexis, Don W9RA and Paul N9LXF and Mike WA9FTS. CC, DIM and RA took the Ike west and came south via Wolf Rd or 355. SA and the LXF, FTS team took Roosevelt Rd west to Wolf. Greg and Paul and I overshot to the north and then circled Tom ending north of the RR on Harrison St. Then back to Roosevelt and up Fencel Rd to the turnaround. Charlie got there first and then Paul and I. Tony was there also walking in from his car several blocks away. I ran past Tom who was next the building indicated in the map below to the back of the property and then along the building turn away from Tom only to run around the building to the north side. This gave Tony AA9CC a chance to find Tom for the win with Charlie following for 2nd. I came back to find Tom for 3rd. A few minutes later Greg arrived and found Tom for 4th. Don W9RA was in the area but gave up and we all headed for Buona Beef at Wolf and 22nd (Cermak). Don K9VGJ joined us. Results:

1. Tony AA9CC
2. Charlie KB9DIM, Alexis
- 3 Paul N9LXF, Mike WA9FTS
4. Greg N9SA DNF Don W9RA

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The following CFMC members renewed during November;

KD8ANJ KC9ENZ N9FHD W9IVJ WB9JNZ
WA9KUK N9LVD N9OGC KF9SP N9TGR K9VCZ
KB9YRE N9ZAZ

**FOR SECOND READING AT THE
DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

WB9UEZ DAN GOLUBA K9VO WA9EMY

FOR THIRD READING AND VOTE

KB9TNB DAVID SORIA KB9QWZ K9FFY

TREASURER'S REPORT
November 2006

Income

Membership Dues	
Regular Dues	\$225.00
Senior and >20 years	\$120.00
Total Membership Dues	\$345.00
Total Income	\$345.00

Expense

Meetings	\$11.79
Rent	
Lake County Fairgrounds	\$1,000.00
Total Rent	\$1,000.00
Squelch Tale October	
Squelch Tale - Postage	\$39.00
Squelch Tale - Printing	\$69.70
Total Squelch Tale	\$108.70
Telephone	
220 control-32	\$49.62
2mtr & 440 Aon - 073	\$48.95
440 Control-49	\$25.47
Ham Help Line-773	\$21.33
Total Telephone	\$145.37
Total Expense	\$1,265.86
Net Ordinary Income	-\$920.86
Net Income	-\$920.86
Available Capital 11/01/2006	\$13,477.41
Net Income November 2006	-\$920.86
Total Available Funds	\$12,556.55

Respectfully submitted:
Bob Schiff KA9HHH
Treasurer

MEETING PROGRAMS

If you know someone that could give a presentation at one of our monthly club meetings, please let me know. I am the club "program director". Contact me Tom KB9AJM at: tomstobb@yahoo.com

Have you ever been troubled by something the Board of Directors has done in the past? Well, now is your chance to make yourself heard. Just come to the December general meeting and cast that vote that could change the way CFMC will look in the future. A brand new Board of Directors will be voted in at the election that evening. If you do not vote, then you have nothing to complain about.

RESCUE RADIO: AMERICAN RED CROSS WANTS PERSONAL INFO ON HAM RADIO VOLUNTEERS

If you plan to volunteer your communications services to the American Red Cross, be aware that the organization wants to know everything about you. It even wants to know about your personal finances and that has the ARRL warning hams to be careful of what information you provide

The American Radio Relay League was among the first to sound the alarm on this one after members involved in emergency communications activities with the Red Cross began questioning the need for extensive background checks for all volunteers. Perhaps it is the legacy of Hurricane Katrina and the fraud investigations of Red Cross activities that followed.

Volunteers began receiving letters in the last several weeks from Red Cross chapters around the country instructing them if they wished to continue serving, they would have to submit to a mandatory criminal background check by Oct. 31. That deadline has since been moved to the end of December.

The letters directed volunteers to go to the website: www.mybackgroundcheck.com. While the Red Cross chapter letters insisted there was only interest in whether someone had a criminal background and a valid driver's license, it was the disclosures and instructions on the website that alarmed ham radio operators around the country.

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, writes the Public Service column for CQ Magazine. "The big concern right now is the difference between what the Red Cross is saying versus what is actually posted on a website that they are directing you to register for the background check," Josuweit says. He says it's not so much the issue of a background check, but the kind of information the website seeks.

"There is concern that the background checks that the site is requiring is much more extensive than many county background checks for RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) operation," Josuweit says.

What has so many up in arms is the requirement of mybackgroundcheck.com that you give them your name, Social Security number, date of birth, telephone number, driver's license number, email address, and other personal data. Then, you must grant the company permission to run a credit report, education history, and quoting from the website's privacy policy "other types of background screening."

This could involve exploring your sources of income, investments and other business or legal arrangements. In this age of privacy concerns about personal information, and risks of identity theft, many hams are crying foul and have called their ARRL field representatives and League headquarters to raise concerns.

The League's president Joel Harrison, W5ZN, even issued a statement advising hams who work with the Red Cross

to read carefully what the organization permission to gather. The League's position is it's up to the individual volunteer to comply with the Red Cross request.

A website statement posted on a Red Cross chapter site in Maryland, and comments of a Red Cross official in an interview aired on KYW Newsradio here in Philadelphia, stated the Red Cross is not interested in credit checks - only criminal background and driver license information. The national office of the Red Cross has not been forthcoming with an explanation of the inconsistencies in what data is being sought.

ARRL has a Statement of Understanding with the American Red Cross governing the work of ham radio operators with the organization. There is no mention of background checks in the agreement, which comes up for review next year.

Bob Josuweit says some volunteer radio operators are exploring another alternative. "There's already some discussion going on several email reflectors indicating they don't want to go through the additional background check that is required at this point," Josuweit says. "However, other sections are looking into the possibility that they may be able to still provide the service but being assigned to a shelter by a local county government."

Josuweit concedes the Red Cross has been under fire in the wake of allegations that some volunteers assigned duties during the Gulf Coast hurricanes engaged in theft and diverted donations elsewhere. "They had a need to take some drastic steps" Josuweit says. "There was concerns over some fraud issues following the Katrina disaster last year with the hurricanes.

"And they need to take some steps to make sure that everybody, that they were above reproach and people, the volunteers were going to help out without any surprises coming on." Josuweit says he is hopeful the matter can be resolved amicably.

"Oh, I think there is a resolution there," Josuweit says. "I think it's going to have to be discussed. I'm hoping that ARRL will continue their discussion with Red Cross on a national level and express our concerns. We do play a major role with the Red Cross communications and hopefully that this will resolve sooner before we have the next major disaster."

Based on a reading of some of the popular ham radio websites, Red Cross chapters may be in for quite a shock when formerly loyal volunteer communicators don't respond to the call. To what extent this demand for personal information will have on future ham radio volunteering to the American Red Cross is to early to tell.

The ARRL is asking the FCC to expand 60-meter operating privileges and substitute a new channel for one that's often occupied by a federal government user.

The ARRL Letters says that the League wants the FCC to authorize General class and higher licensees to run 100 watts of effective radiated power instead of the present 50 watts., It also wants the FCC to allow CW and narrow-band digital modes, including PSK31 and PACTOR 3.

In its filing, the ARRL also asked the Commission to replace the 5.368.0 MHz center-frequency channel with 5.358.5 MHz. This, so amateurs can avoid federal government digital traffic on the current channel. Operation on 60 meters would remain on a secondary, non-interference basis.

The League filed a Petition for Rule Making on October 11. The FCC has not yet assigned a rule making number to the petition nor invited comments. The ARRL Executive Committee okayed filing the PRM when it met October 7.

WORLDS WORST COMMUNICATIONS PREDICTIONS

Some interesting communications and technology predictions that could not have been more wrong. Get ready to smile.

"Theoretically, television may be feasible, but I consider it an impossibility - a development which we should waste little time dreaming about." Lee de Forest in 1926, inventor of the cathode ray tube.

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." Thomas J. Watson in 1943, Chairman of the Board of IBM.

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." Western Union internal memo in 1876.

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" H. M. Warner of Warner Brothers in 1927.

And the last one which is a classic. "640 Kilobytes ought to be enough (memory) for anybody." Bill Gates in 1981.

And then there's the thoughts of the perennial early 1920's radio amateurs whose names have long ago been forgotten but his words live on: "All a ham needs to work DX is a good rotary spark gap, a lively piece of Galena crystal for a receiver, some wire on the roof and a lot of luck

January 2007

What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

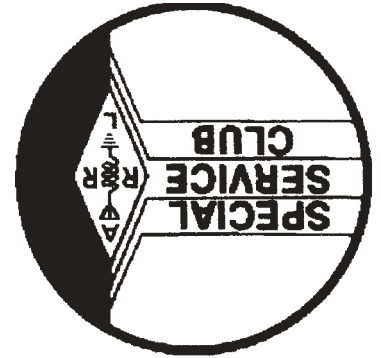
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Members Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month!

*** TBA = To Be Announce**



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

Dennis Krawczak KC9ENZ

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Steve Bosnyak K9VO

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Trustee

Howard Goldberg N9KTW

Chairmen

Echo Link WA9KXZ

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

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.