

The Chicago FM Club's
Newsletter

"SQUELCH TALE"

**Volume
2006**

**Number 11
November**

November 23

"THE PREZ SEZ"

November already. This year is just zipping by. I hope everyone had more treats than tricks for Halloween.

We have a real treat in store for you at our next general meeting. That's right, time to look in the garage, the basement, and in all the drawers for those treasures we all have been waiting to sell at the fall C.F.M.C. auction. I know I'm really looking forward to it.

After careful consideration and seven consecutive terms as President I have decided not to accept the nomination for President of the CFMC.

Be assured that the club will still have my support and guidance if needed. WE have a new slate of officers who will be taking office at our December meeting. Please keep in mind to show your support and cast your vote at our December meeting.

I would like to wish all our members a Happy Thanksgiving and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our next general meeting.

73 de Phil N9PA



**FINAL NOMINATIONS
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Below, is the final slate of nominees for the election of Officers to be held at the December general meeting. As you can see, things have changed from the last reporting. The Absentee ballots will be mailed around the end of the month. If you would like to cast an absentee ballot, I MUST have your request either by mail or by e-mail (dick6614@aol.com). I will NOT accept any requests over the phone.

PRESIDENT;
WA9EMY JIM SMALL

VICE PRESIDENT;
N9KTW HOWARD GOLDBERG
KA9TRG KEN HAVLICK

SECRETARY;
KC9GXC RANDY BARTOSIEWICZ
KB9QWZ MELISSA MENEELY

TREASURER;
KC9ENZ DENNIS KRAWCZAK

FROM THE SECRETARY

I would like to take a few inches of space to thank all our Club members who have been patient with me for the many years I was Secretary of the Chicago FM Club. I did my best to improve the office during my tenure. I hope to continue as Squelch Tale editor.
Dick K9FFY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The following CFMC members renewed during October;
KC9BF W8EGK WA9EMY WA9EVF N9FXU
KC9GLH WD9GVU W9GYC N9IPH KA9IXQ
K9LPL KB9OOR KE9PE K9RCN K9RH KB9TER
KA9TRG W9UWE K9WGN WQ9X K9YSE

The following former members chose not to renew;
KC9EQP N9FHD WD9GAD KA9KBO W9ZIB
WB9ZNL

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

**October 2006 CFMC Foxhunt
by Mike WA9FTS**

It was a cool and rainy evening but it did not deter the hearty hunters from their appointed task - to find Charlie KB9DIM and Alexis first! We were met by 4 members of CSRA who wanted to find out more about foxhunting. One of the CSRA members, Norm, road along with Tom N9CBA.

We got a strong reading to the NE and all the hunters heard Charlie. We went in different directions. Tom headed north to the Ike and then on the Kennedy. He got off at Western and headed north. Paul N9LXF and I traveled east on Cermak to Cicero, north to Devon and east to Crawford to Touhy. I am not sure of the route taken by Greg N9SA and Don W9RA. However, Tom and Norm arrived at a park on the east side of the canal by McCormick south of Howard just before us. I wandered away from the car the the next transmission realized that Charlie was on the other side. I knew exactly where he was. But by the time I got back to the car, Tom was driving off and found a hard-to-see street called Channel St. He was ahead of us - we both got out at the same time and Tom won by several seconds. When we left we spotted Greg going east on Howard to Channel St and he finished 3rd only a couple of minutes late. Don W9RA was about a quarter mile away and gave up since the kitchen at Ruby Tuesdays nearby was shutting down in 15 min. We all mad it on time.
Results:

Tom N9CBA, Norm 2. Mike WA9FTS, Paul N9LXF 3.

Greg N9SA DNF Don W9RA

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 October general meeting;

W9BBQ	KELVIN JERRELL JACKSON
KB9DSQ	STEVEN E HILL
KC9JTY	PAUL EASTER
KC9JZM	JERRY MORRIS SR
KC9KDU	JOSEPH MENDZA
KC9KDV	RON KOTCH
W9VQ	NORMAN WALD

TREASURER'S REPORT
October 2006

Income

Membership Dues	
Regular Dues	\$375.00
Senior and >20 years	\$180.00
Total Membership Dues	\$555.00
Total Income	\$555.00

Expense

Meetings - Refreshments	\$7.39
Radio Expo 2006	
Advertising Expo – Thank You letters	\$11.91
Workers Prizes	\$200.00
Worker's Dinner 2006	\$1,018.06
Total Radio Expo 2006	\$1,229.97
Squelch Tale	
Squelch Tale - Postage	\$46.80
Squelch Tale - Printing	\$54.40
Total Squelch Tale	\$101.20
Telephone	
Echo Link – Sept & Oct	\$114.63
220 control-32	\$23.43
2mtr & 440 Aon - 073	\$49.91
440 Control-49	\$23.43
Ham Help Line-773	\$18.51
Total Telephone	\$229.91
Total Expense	\$1,568.47
Net Income	-\$1,013.47
Available Capital 10/01/2006	\$14,490.88
Net Income October 2006	-\$1,013.47
Total Available Funds	\$13,477.41

Respectfully submitted:
Bob Schiff KA9HHH

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

WB9UEZ DAN GOLUBA K9VO WA9EMY

FOR SECOND READING

KB9TNB DAVID SORIA KB9QWZ K9FFY

FOR THIRD READING AND VOTE

W9DMW DON WONDOLKOWSKI K9VO WA9EMY
 KC9KAP KELLY McSHANE N9PA K9FFY
 K9CDL DANIEL TROLIA KB9AJM N9HIZ
 W9GHZ JULIUS HORACE K9BAJM K9VO

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The October Board meeting of the Chicago FM Club was held at Russels Restaurant. Those in attendance were;

N9PA WA9EMY K9FFY KA9HHH KC9ENZ
 WA9FTS N9KTW K9VO W9XB KB9AJM
 WA9KOD KB9QWZ KA9TRG

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

SECRETARY K9FFY

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

TREASURER KA9HHH

Bob passed out the final Expo accounting and the October tally sheet. (Look elsewhere for the monthly tally sheet). A discussion was held on our CD. Bob, KA9HHH made a motion to move the money to a savings account for the present. The Board voted 7 yes with 1 abstention until the new Board can decide how to handle the monies.

TECHNICAL W9XB

Rick discussed the purchase of a new 220MHZ North repeater at a cost of about \$6000.00. That decision will be left to the new Board to make. Rick is not sure just where the noise on the 2 Meter repeater is coming from at this time.

RADIO EXPO 2007 WA9EMY

Jimmy received the Fair Grounds contract for next year. After checking over everything, a few provisions of the contract were worrisome and which MUST be resolved before we can sign on for next year. Jim and Dennis are going up to get everything taken care of we hope. Stay tuned

NEW BUSINESS

The Echolink site might have to be relocated in the spring. Jimmy assured the Board not to worry, He is pretty sure he knows where a site is possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

All gifts should be un-wrapped and with the price stickers removed. This is so the Nuns can give the gift to the child. Some gifts take judgment, little children should not be given gifts with a choke hazard. Some dolls are made with dark features and better suited to children of that heritage. Little boys like toy trucks and cars. The older grade school girls do not go for the dolls so much.

School supplies are also acceptable. A Texas Instruments Model TI-30XA is the calculator specified by the Archdiocese. School back-packs are a good buy at \$20.00. Warm Clothing, new, of any size is acceptable. Hats and gloves are appreciated. The traditional basketball, football, and soccer ball are big hits and can be found for \$5 to \$10 bucks. The little kids usually get soccer balls that are smaller than a real regulation ball, just their size. A quality baseball mitt is great but usually cost in the \$35 to \$45 bracket. A bought several sleeping bags one year that was a big hit. The Sisters made sure they went to the right place.

The sponsoring group is the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, a chivalrous order dating back to the First Crusade, yes really. SMOTJ is a charity and can provide a receipt for tax deductible purposes. Cash is acceptable.

Doctors Without Borders will provide shipping to the Russian Orphanage.

Hi fellow CFMC members

My name is Howard, N9KTW. I am running for VICE PRESIDENT of our club. I have been a member of the club since 1991. I am net control on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, refreshment chairman, and on the RADIO EXPO committee. I am also the trustee, and currently on the board. It would be both an honor and a privilege to be elected to the office of vice president. I look forward to serving the club as vice president.

Thank you

Howard Goldberg, N9KTW

DZV's DITS AND BITS by Tim, WD9DZV

N8BJQ is new CQ WPX Award manager: Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, has been named to succeed Norm Koch, WN5N (ex-K6ZDL), as manager of the CQ WPX Award program, CQ Publisher and President Dick Ross, K2MGA, has announced. The WPX awards are issued for confirmed contacts with stations having different call sign prefixes. Koch is retiring after 25 years in the position. "We thank Norm for his many years of devoted service to the WPX program, to CQ and to Amateur Radio," said Ross, "We wish him all the best in the future." A CQ Contesting Hall of Famer and Contest Committee member, Bolia was CQ WPX Contest director from 1982 until 2003. He holds CW, SSB and mixed Worked All Zones awards, is on the DXCC Honor Roll (mixed and CW), and holds 5-Band DXCC, RTTY DXCC and 160-Meter DXCC. He's also made several DXpeditions. The September issue of CQ will include updated address information to submit award applications.

Post-2001 IRCs bear expiration dates: Many DXers still use International Reply Coupons (IRCs) <<http://www.upu.int/irc/en/>> issued by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to cover return postage for QSL cards. As of January 1, 2002, UPU-issued IRCs bear expiration dates, after which the coupon has no value. The so-called "Beijing model 1" IRC expires December 31, 2006.

The newest IRC, the "Beijing model 2," expires December 31, 2009. Check any IRCs you've got on hand for an expiration date! Curiously, the United States Postal Service International Mail Manual states that the period of exchange for IRCs issued by the UPU on or after January 1, 1975, is unlimited. The UPU says IRCs are exchangeable in all member countries for the minimum postage of a priority item or an unregistered airmail letter sent to a foreign country. An IRC costs \$1.85 in the US. Although US post offices are not obliged to sell IRCs, it is mandatory for post offices in UPU member countries to exchange the coupons.

BUYING BELDEN COAX CABLE- BEWARE

After recently searching to buy some Belden Coax for a new amateur radio antenna project, I feel compelled to warn others on some of my rather surprising results. Being that my father-in-law spent many a year making this quality cable, I have managed to become very familiar with the Belden line of cables for Amateur Radio applications.

My initial search came back with several sellers claiming to be selling quality Belden Coax, so I contacted them with questions regarding their cable. Belden has always printed model and run numbers on their coax cable, and I simply asked these sellers for this Belden number, or to post a picture showing it, so I could research the technical specifics for my application. To my

Continued on Page 6

Qualification Statement from Jim Small, WA9EMY for CFMC President

Dear Fellow CFMC Member,

My name is Jim Small and I have been nominated to the office of CFMC President. The current President, Phil Amato, has decided to step down. Phil has been President for several terms and has done a fine job in a challenging position that takes an enormous amount of time and commitment. Phil has been instrumental in guiding the CFMC into the 21st century of Amateur Radio and leaves a rich legacy of accomplishments. Following in his footsteps, I will work to improve our repeater systems, to expand CFMC social and amateur radio activities, and to encourage member participation and input at all levels. I appreciate the past efforts and sacrifices of fellow Club officers and Board members who have generously labored for the good of the CFMC. And, of course, I wish to thank our CFMC members who contribute their hard work and many volunteer hours to make Radio Expo, Field Day, Fox Hunts, and Amateur Radio Appreciation Days, successful events. I began my tenure with the CFMC back in the day when the Club did not have a repeater. At about the same time, I started the SUHFARS Club with two fellow Motorola Hams. Don Reese, WA9DGY, a Founding Father of CFMC, was also actively involved with SUHFARS at this time. During those years, I served as President, Secretary, and Treasurer of SUHFARS. More on point, I have been very actively involved with the CFMC for the past six years. I have served as Radio Expo Chairman in 1991, 2005, 2006, and have volunteered to serve again as Expo Chairman in 2007. In addition to these posts, I currently serve as CFMC Vice-President and a member of the CFMC Board of Directors. I look forward to serving as your President and ask for your continued support as we move into 2007. "73" Jim, WA9EMY

Melissa Meneely KB9QWZ
Nominee for Office of Secretary

I was the treasurer of Chicago Amateur Radio Club for 4 years. My husband *K9QLC previously KB9QPJ was the President for 4 years. In this time I did most of the work required of both jobs because he had not real time to do his share. I organized Hamfests, auctions, and Field Day activities. I also maintained the club roster and sent out all club mailings. I also have extensive computer skills such as knowledge of basic office software, Programming, networking, and web design just to name a few. I feel these are all great qualities to bring to CFMC. I look forward to putting my skills and knowledge to work supporting CFMC.

My name is Dennis Krawczak, KC9ENZ, and I have been nominated to the office of Treasurer by the CFMC Board of Directors. Even though I am running unopposed for this position, I believe it is beneficial to present a brief personal sketch for your information and consideration. I joined the Chicago FM Club shortly after receiving my license in 2003 and am currently serving as a CFMC Board member and as a Volunteer Examiner. I have been a lawyer since 1979 and have served as a committee attorney with the Illinois General Assembly, staff attorney with the Department of Children and Family Services, a partner in private practice, and as a television producer of continuing legal educational programming with the American Bar Association's Division for Professional Education. If elected CFMC Treasurer, I will fulfill the duties as specified in the CFMC Constitution and By-Laws to the best of my abilities and will work with my fellow Officers and Board Members to maintain a program of sound fiscal management and planning. Increased competition from Internet sales and auctions presents a challenge to future Radio Expo revenues. I believe that it is crucial to develop creative events at future Radio Expos to increase attendance and to explore innovative sources of additional club revenues to ensure the long term fiscal health of the CFMC. I also believe that the CFMC should strive to be more of a "full service" Amateur Radio club for the greater metropolitan Chicago area by offering more programs at Club meetings, by developing educational opportunities for members to perfect their technical knowledge and operating skills, and by encouraging greater camaraderie among members through more frequent and diverse social and radio related events. I welcome your support, ideas, and advice as we confront the challenges of the future.

73 Dennis M. Krawczak

Ken Havlick KA9TRG
Seeking office of vice-president
Member for over 18 years
Active in Field day, Radio Expo, AES Membership table for Club, coordinator for Radio Awareness Days, recruiter for speakers. President of Bravo Bravo Radio Club.
Board of Director, Illinois Carpet Cleaners
Board of Director, Chicago Carpet Cleaner Association
Owner and operator K & H Carpet Cleaning Company, over 30 years

I would like to see the Club have picnics, a Holiday Party, radio workshops, and social events with members and other clubs. I would also like to expand the Club newsletter, and to up-grade our equipment. THIS CAN HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE!

Thank you. Ken KA9TRG

surprise, and the reason I am writing this guide, is quite simple. Not 1 of these sellers could provide this information (although most did respond with an answer). Most provided other manufacturer names and numbers, yet were claiming to be selling quality Belden coax cable! I am not sure why eBay allows this practice, but if you are searching for a good quality Belden Coax Cable with good quality PL259 connectors, I encourage you to ask questions FIRST!! Any seller claiming to be selling Belden RG/8X cable with 3000 watt load capacity is a no brainer, and yes sellers are out there making this exact claim in their auctions.....In short, there is absolutely NO way Belden RG8X cable will handle 3000 watts, not even close.....Belden RG8X cables are all rated at 370 watts MAX load under the best swr conditions!

In closing, coax cable is a very important part of your antenna system, so make sure you are getting what is advertised BEFORE placing that bid!! Hopefully this guide will help those contemplating this type purchase.

73 de K9TOA

ELECTRONICS SAFETY: APPLE AND DELL RECALL LAPTOP BATTERIES MADE BY SONY

Computer manufacturers Dell and Apple are recalling millions of batteries used in certain models of both companies brands of laptops. Dell pegs the number of defective batteries at 4.1 million while Apple says there are about 1.8 million that need to be replaced.

All the defective batteries involved in the recall are said hold the potential to overheat. In both cases the batteries were made by a Sony subsidiary known as Sony Energy Devices Corporation. The Japan based company specializes in the manufacture of Lithium Ion power packs. In a press release, Sony said the problems arises only on rare occasions. It pegs the cause as tiny metal particles hitting other parts of the battery cell and causing a short circuit.

So far only computers made by Apple and Dell are affected. Sony says that the two recalls will cost it between \$172 million and \$278 million. More information is on-line at www.dellbatteryprogram.com and support.apple.com/batteryprogram respectively. (Apple, Dell, others)

NAMES IN THE NEWS: KB9IBW ON "TALKING WITH HEROES"

And August 18th saw Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, co-host the radio program "Talking With Heroes." As a result of his appearance, the Amateur Radio service has been offered the opportunity to be the topic on two additional programs.

Talking With Heroes is a program sponsored by the American Legion that allows members of the military and military

support groups to present their perspective. In upcoming episodes Richard Andrew, N-9-H-R-A, will discuss Skywarn, ARES, and Amateur Radio in general. A second program will cover Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day and the public service aspect of Amateur Radio.

"BACKWARD SUNSPOTS" MAY HERALD START OF SOLAR CYCLE 24

The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. At least that's the thinking of some scientists.

"We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, then disappeared, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August —although it subsequently began to dissipate — and some sun gazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24."

"Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle," he said. Radio conditions will not improve any time soon but over a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

SOLAR PREDICTING: SOLAR CYCLE 24 TO ARRIVE IN 2007

Some good news for DX'ers. Researchers say that the next sunspot cycle is expected to begin in early 2007. This, after yet another backward sunspot: evidence continues to mount that the next solar cycle is beginning.

What is a backward sunspot you ask? According to Radio Bulgaria these occur when one solar cycle gives way to another. At that point in time the magnetic poles of sunspots reverse polarity. Now, for the second time in less than a month, such a backward sunspot has appeared on the sun's surface.

By way of record keeping, this is the 24th since cycle scientists have identified. This assumption is based on the fairly regular recurring pattern of peaks and valleys in solar activity. Historically, the first recorded observations of sunspots is in Chinese journals from about 800 B.C. The first telescopic solar observations not coming until 2,400 years later, in 1610.

December 2006

What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

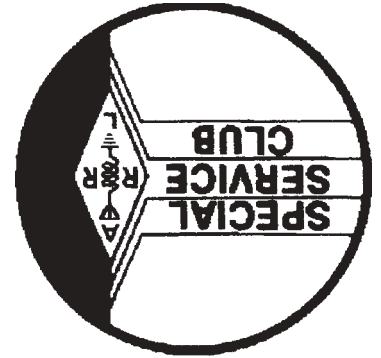
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31 KG9GM N9OGC New Year's Eve	<hr/> <p>November 06</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</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>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <hr/>		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			<hr/> <p>January 07</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <hr/>		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				
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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

Mike Brost WA9FTS

Howard Goldberg N9KTW

Steve Bosnyak K9VO

Rick Duel W9XB

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.