

The Chicago FM Club's
Newsletter

"SQUELCH TALE"

**Volume
2006
Number 9
September**

"THE PREZ SEZ"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Officers, Board of Directors, Radio Expo chairpersons, especially Jim WA9EMY for being Chairman, Steve K9VO for his great job as manpower chairman, and all the Radio Expo workers that made this year's hamfest a success. It was nice to see some new faces this year.

Many hours of planning went in to this year's Radio Expo and it sure paid off. With the help of Mother Nature we had two days just perfect for a hamfest. Thanks again for making Expo 2006 a success.

At September's general meeting, nominations will be accepted for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The elections will be held in December. I'm also looking for some new people to help with Radio Expo. Some of the chairmen have been doing it for quite a few years and it's time for a changing of the guard. If anyone is interested give me a call.

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



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 August general meeting;

KC9JUA	GEORGE BOBECK
KC9JWR	MIKE McGLASHON
KC9JWS	KATHY SMITH

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

W9DMW DON WONDOLKOWSKI K9VO WA9EMY

FOR SECOND READING

KC9JTY PAUL EASTER N9PA K9FFY

FOR THIRD READING AND VOTE

KB9MNN	WALTER FORRED	N9PA	K9FFY
W9YGQ	ROGERS PIERCY	N9PA	K9FFY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The following CFMC members renewed during August;

KA9ABU N9CMP K9DDI KB9DIN KC9GXC KF9HE
N9HKN KC9JUA N9LEN KE9NT KB9OOM N9PRG
N9RKU KB9WQG

The following former member chose not to renew;

N9IC

**August 2006 CFMC Foxhunt
by Tom N9CBA**

Tom N9CBA hid in car in Western Springs after only 50% reported hearing the dug-in location five miles away from the starting point. The mobile radio was in the 25 watt position powered from the 33 AH AGM battery. The mag-mount antenna did not have a proper ground plane when the dug-in spot was used.

1. Charlie KB9DIM and Alexis 2. Greg N9SA

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2006

Income

Membership Dues	
Regular Dues	\$325.00
Senior and >20 years	\$75.00
Total Membership Dues	\$400.00

Misc Income – Replace Draw f/Expo2006	\$1,000.00
---------------------------------------	------------

Radio Expo

Expo Tickets	\$18,879.00
Fairgrounds Electric	\$100.00
Table Rental	\$1,500.00
Total Radio Expo	\$20,879.00

Total Income	\$21,879.00
---------------------	--------------------

Expense

Advertising Expo	\$863.85
Contributions – ARRL Scholarship	\$500.00
Meetings	\$161.79
Miscellaneous - Draw f/Expo2006	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$28.84
Radio Expo 2006 – Door Prizes	\$618.42
Radio Expo 2006 - Other	\$2,543.86
Rent – Lake County Fairgrounds - Balance	\$9,984.00
Lodging	\$1,404.38
Total Radio Expo 2006	\$17,105.14

Squelch Tale - August

Squelch Tale - Postage	\$46.80
Squelch Tale - Printing	\$48.60
Total Squelch Tale	\$95.40

Telephone

Echo Link	\$53.52
220 control-32	\$46.41
2mtr & 440 Aon - 073	\$45.76
440 Control-49	\$22.91
Ham Help Line-773	\$21.37

Total Telephone	\$189.97
-----------------	----------

Total Expense	\$17,390.51
----------------------	--------------------

Net Income	\$4,488.49
------------	------------

Available Capital	8/01/2006	\$10,245.05
-------------------	-----------	-------------

Net Income	August 2006	\$4,488.49
------------	-------------	------------

Total Available Funds	\$14,733.54
------------------------------	--------------------

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Schiff KA9HHH

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting was held at Russells Restaurant.

Those in attendance were;

N9PA WA9EMY K9FFY KA9HHH KC9ENZ
N9KTW K9VO KB9AJM WA9KOD WB9QZB
KA9TRG

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

SECRETARY K9FFY

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

TREASURER KA9HHH

Bob discussed his report to the Board (look elsewhere for his report).

RADIO EXPO 06 WA9EMY

KA9HHH asked how many prizes are available for the Workers Dinner and if we will have to purchase more. Tom will count the prizes.

WA9EMY said the dinner should cost about the same as last year. There was a discussion on the date.

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008

The election of Officers of CFMC will be held at the December general meeting. If you require an absentee ballot, they will go out at the end of November. Requests for the ballot will ONLY be accepted either by mail or e-mail. NO PHONE requests will be honored. Nominations will be accepted at the September and October general meetings. The Board nominated the following

PRESIDENT	N9PA	PHIL AMATO
VICE PRESIDENT	WA9EMY	JIM SMALL
SECRETARY	K9FFY	DICK HERSH
TREASURER	KC9ENZ	DENNIS KRAWCZAK

NEW BUSINESS

Dennis, KC9ENZ, made 2 motions to the Board;

Motion #1 Be it moved that...

If an elected office is contested, then each candidate for the contested office shall be given an opportunity to submit a reasonably concise statement of his or her qualifications for publication in the November Squelch Tale

K9VO seconded the motion. The Board voted with 5 yes

Motion #2 Be it moved that...

If an elected office is contested, then each candidate for the contested office shall be given an opportunity at the election meeting to address the members in attendance prior to the distribution of ballots at said meeting.

K9VO seconded the motion. The Board voted with 5 yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION GEARING UP

A big "Thank You" goes to the hundreds of ARRL members who have already contacted us about the first ARRL On-Line Auction, expressing their support for and interest in this exciting event. We have already begun receiving some very generous donations that will surely make the first ARRL On-Line Auction an event to remember.

The auction will run from Monday, October 23 through Friday, November 3. Individuals who wish to participate will need to register on-line approximately one week prior to the event. An update announcement will appear on the ARRL Web site when the ARRL On-Line Auction site "goes live."

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.

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 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)

AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY IS SEPTEMBER 16

September is US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day. For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities. ARES is a partner with DHS through the Citizen Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio.

“More than 4000 ARRL ‘Hello’ campaign <http://www.hello-radio.org/> brochures have gone out in the past few weeks alone to prepare for the month-long initiative,” he said. To highlight Amateur Radio Awareness Day, ARRL public information officers (PIOs) will promote the DHS’s “30 Tips for Emergency Preparedness” <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0711.xml> to attract news media coverage. Some tips on promoting National Preparedness Month are on the ARRL public relations Web pages <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2006/08/SEPTEMBER>>.

ARRL Public Service Team Manager Steve Ewald, WV1X, notes that the underlying theme of National Preparedness Month is to encourage everyone to be aware of and prepare for emergencies all year long. “Amateur Radio operators, led by ARRL Field Organization leaders across the country, are encouraged to consider this year’s ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) — as well as all preparations and post-SET evaluations — as a demonstration of your participation in National Preparedness Month,” Ewald said. The target weekend for the 2006 SET is October 7-8 <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>>.

“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.

October 2006

What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

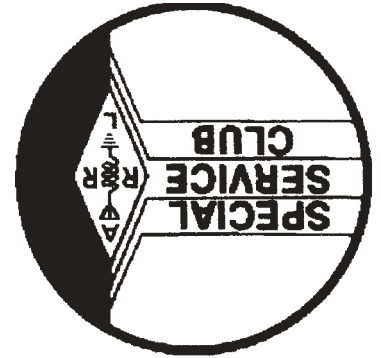
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 WA9FTS	2	3 Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ KB9KE	4 KB9WPA	5	6 KB9QBQ W9ITV	7 KB9LPA KC9URN																																																																																																		
8 K9JON	9 Columbus Day (Observed)	10 Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	11 KC9DUZ	12	13	14																																																																																																		
15	16	17 Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ W9ZIB	18 GENERAL MEETING Location *TBA Nominations of Officers will Close. VEC Testing Tonight WD9DWW	19 KC9DFK	20	21 FOX HUNT Harlem Cermak Shopping Center 7:00pm																																																																																																		
22	23 NA9A	24 Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	25 K9LPL N9IDS	26 KA9ZXN	27 W9DXP	28																																																																																																		
29 Daylight Savings--set back 1 hour	30 N9CBE	31 Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ KC9HAE N9ZAZ Halloween	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">September</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></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		September							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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">November</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></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</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></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		November							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	
September																																																																																																								
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																																																																																																		
November																																																																																																								
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																																																																																																			

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

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.