



**Volume  
2007  
Number 3  
March**

St. Patricks Day

***“The President’s Corner”***

Well, the board members have had a busy month getting ready for the Radio Expo, the picnic plans for the summer, and Radio Rick has had to make repairs to the 2m repeater. I’m very pleased with the turn out at the meetings, as well as having a guest speaker Norm, W9VQ and Andy, N9TGR. We have been experiencing, a great deal of jamming, on our repeaters lately. If you hear this and can go to reverse on your radio, and note your time and location, we might be able to get a better idea of their location, **THIS IS YOUR REPEATER**, lets get rid of those who would make using it, difficult for you, to use. I would also like to thank Melissa, and her mother, Kathryn Griffith, for the fine job of not only up dating the web



Saturday, March 17

site, but for sorting out the Radio Expo ticket stubs and entering them in the data base, this is a thankless job that Dick, K9FFY, has been doing for a number of years, thanks to all. Your all doing a fine job, let us have fun, after all this is just a hobby, and again thanks to the members, for their support of the best repeater around.



Yours Truly Jim WA9EMY

**FOR SALE**

Hammerlund HG100 and HG110 Communications Receivers, working

Contact W9FUF Kent Anderson

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Yaesu FT-1000MKV FIELD. Covers 10 thru 160 meters. Comes with 2 optional INRAD filters for 1.8 and 2.0 kHz. Radio is two years old and in excellent condition, has never been opened or modified. Radio is a 9 to 9plus.

Yaesu FT 920. Covers 6 thru 160 meters. and optional fm board, comes with built in atu, voice keyer, dsp etc. This rig has one of the best 6 meter receivers one the market. Puts out 100w on all bands. Radio is a 9 to 9 plus.

Best offers. Andy N9TGR n9tgr@arrl.net

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**MEETING PROGRAMS**

If you know someone that could give a presentation at one of our monthly club meetings, please contact the club "Program Chairman" Tom KB9AJM at: tom-kb9ajm@sbcglobal.net Also we have about 250 members in our club and it would be nice to hear more club members using our repeaters, such as 2 meters, 440, and 220 megahertz and also check into our Tuesday evening nets at 8:00 pm and also the 9:00pm.

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

The following CFMC members renewed during February;

KB9QPQ KC9YG KC9UJ N9ZON N9SMN  
KC9AVM KD9MF KB9RTP KB9ORA

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

KC9KXF JAVIER ESCOBAR

**FOR SECOND READING**

K9TP MARK MAY

**FOR THIRD READING AND VOTE**

KC9KOV DANIEL DiMATTEO

**UPCOMING HAMFESTS**

29 April 2007

DMRAA Des Moines Radio Amateur Association 92.5  
KJJY 7 Flags Event Center 2100 NW 100th St Clive, IA  
Admission \$5.00 Kids Free 8:00 start, 9:30 VE  
Testing All Tables \$10.00 each Contact: Lowell Abarr  
KB6SDI Cell: 515-544-3922 Email: [Lowellf@aol.com](mailto:Lowellf@aol.com)  
<http://www.qsl.net/dmraa> DMRAA

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29 April 2007

KARC Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club DeKalb  
Hamfest Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL admis-  
sion \$5.00 adv \$6.00 Gate tables \$10.00 each Contact:  
Bob Yurs W9CIU 815-895-3219 Email: [w9ciu@arrl.net](mailto:w9ciu@arrl.net)  
<http://kish-club.org/>

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Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) 5710 West Good Hope  
Road Milwaukee, WI <http://www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml>

Friday March 30 (2:30-7:00 pm)

Sat. March 31 (8:30 am - 3:00 pm)

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**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 February general meeting;

KC9KSH	Edward Yong
KC9KOW	Dan Hensley
WA0SZO	John Oliver

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE VE TEST LEADER.**

We had Ten applicants test at the February session with four Tech exams/ cscs issued.. We even had One person come in to take a morse code exam!! very likely the last code exam given by the club VE team AND HE PASSED!! Its nice to end that bit of history on a good note.. 3 of the Tech csce recipients went on to take the General written test.. and failed

Continued on Page Three

it .. I think that The General test has gotten a lot harder , now that We no longer have ADVANCED class license .. It really does need to be studied for .. and not just by taking online practice exams ... There are so many ways to word a question,... and a thorough understanding of the concept assures that you can discard the two obviously wrong.. answers and split hairs on the two answers that seem closer to right.. All of the current exams follow that sort of answer formula and the people who dreamt up the questions certainly laid enough traps in the answers to garranty You know your stuff , in order to pass.. My best advice is to buy the current A.R.R.L. publication for the class of license/ exam elements/ you want to take and read them thoroughly at least once... The other benefit to buying the book is that the Entire Question pool , for each topic of study, is in the practice questions , at the back of the book. .. If I were to have a class on say, licensed Tech to General class .. I would spend the first 15 minutes with the students going over all the questions on , say “operating practices” (maybe seven questions on that section in the pool , and two required for a test). ..Then go back into the book to reinforce some of the concepts. Then the next week , review, and move onto the next subject questions.. You can see this would take quite a while in a class room setting .Dennis and I planned on a 12 week course for Tech license.. We got really lucky with a very small class size and managed to do it in less time ...So Everyone should also understand how hard it really is to have to study this stuff on their own.. AND So Be Patient .. all of these exams .can take a long time to study for..

Ive been told that another Ham club uses the fieldhouse for meetings and exams..and that they have found another room a bit removed form the general hall so its less a bother to both activities.. I followed a pattern set prior to my taking over the exam sessions and it seems that I was unaware of another room being possible to use.. Hopefully I can arrange to use that room ..

I would also like to thank the volunteers who come out to administer the tests..Robert Schiff, William Davidson, Kenneth Panczak, Tom Doyle, Kayla Holliss , Steve Bosnyak ,Dennis Krawczek,and Phil Amato... your efforts make this task possible , and I Owe you all big time..

.. Finally , I apologise to anyone I might have been brisk with over the course of exam sessions these last couple years..I guess the best way to say it is, that trying to keep the paperwork and session stuff straight , just takes a lot of more concentration for me than most... There has been more than one instance where I would have liked to slow down and give advice to someone , with a real need for answers.. But circumstances didnt permit.. .. This session for instance , was one of those times.. Along with the usual information I send

back to the A.R.R.L. VEC , We also included the necessary paperwork for renewing the Club station callsign, and trustee information. ..its something I had never done before and took a bit of running around by myself and two other club members to find out how to get it done. .. Finally oweing to the close date of club call expiration , the package was sent out in a hurry the next day.... The negative to all this was that I would have liked to take the time and look over the tests from those who didnt pass, in order to help them ... I hope that in the future I can take the time to help.... Thanks for being part of this great hobby, and Good Luck..

### ***MARCH GENERAL MEETING***

The next meeting of the Chicago FM Club will be on Wednesday, March 21 at the Edgebrook Field House - 8 PM. We plan to have a Program at the meeting. Information about the Program will be posted on the CFMC website and the **Tuesday** evening CFMC Info Net when the details are finalized - so please stay tuned.

Anticipating a larger than normal number of upgrades and examinations in March, VE Amateur Radio license testing will begin at 6:30 PM on March 21 at the Edgebrook Field House. In order to speed up processing: Be sure to have two ID's - one with a picture; your social security or FCC FRN numbers; your original CSCE and/or License PLUS ONE COPY of each, if applicable; and \$14.00 ARRL fee (check, money order or cash are acceptable, but PLEASE HAVE EVEN CHANGE if paying by cash).

No initial tests will be administered after 7:15 PM. Retesting of a failed Element is at the sole discretion of the VE testing team. Factors such as time remaining before the Meeting or Program, your score, and availability of VE's are considered in that decision.

Please pre-register with our VE Coordinator, Mr. Stan Wilk at: [nk9a@hotmail.com](mailto:nk9a@hotmail.com)

Please leave you name, call sign, phone number, type of test or upgrade.

The next meeting of the CFMC Board of Directors is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 at 7 PM. Location will be announce on the CFMC website, Info Net, and March General Meeting. All CFMC members are cordially invited to attend.

The Board is always looking for volunteers to prepare the upcoming events, Field Day, the picnic, and Radio Expo. So, come on by if you wish to become more involved in Club activities and planning. 73"

**CHICAGO FM CLUB PICNIC**

The Chicago FM Club will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, July 21, 2007 at Deer Grove near Dundee Road (Rt 68) about two miles West of Route 53 in Northwest Cook County. Watch for more detailed information, driving directions, and maps in subsequent Squelch Tales and on the CFMC website. Volunteers to help out with the event or

**FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

At the February General meeting there were 40 people in attendance. This was a great turnout. I would like to encourage everyone to come join us at our next meeting on March 21, 2007 @ 8:00PM. Dennis and Stan are working on getting a general upgrade class started in about 3 weeks. Please contact Dennis [kc9enz@gmail.com](mailto:kc9enz@gmail.com) for more information.

The Edgebrook Feildhouse has notified us that effective July 2007 through December 2007 that the fieldhouse will be undergoing remodeling and CFMC will not be able to use the meeting room. Ideas are being tossed around for a new meeting location. If you have any suggestions please contact Melissa Meneely K9MLM (773) 504-7515 or email [k9mlm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k9mlm@sbcglobal.net).

EXPO plans are starting to come together. Advertising is starting to flow. There is an issue with the ARRL web site listing the ARRL is aware of and are working to fix, which should be in the next week. Flyers are going out. The CFMC web site has had a complete facelift so please visit <http://www.chicagofmclub.org/>.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> SRO will be holding an auction at the Edgebrook fieldhouse at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited.

A date for our Summer picnic has been announced so mark your calendars for July 21, 2007. Location will be announced soon.

We had a wonderful Presentation by Andy Ronan N9TGR and Norm Wald W9VQ on "Digital Modes" after the meeting. Most in attendance stayed and were captivated by the presentation. Thanks got out to Andy and Norm. You can find information about their presentation on the CFMC web site.

**February '07 CFMC Fox hunt**

By Tony Levand AA9CC

I was hidden near Du Page airport, about a half mile west of Kautz road and a quarter mile north of route 38 behind a snow bank near a construction site, approximately 24.3 miles at 173.3 degrees from the Harlem/Cermak start point.

Map of fox location: The elevation was 780 feet, about 30 feet above the terrain to the east. It was a clear view for several miles. I was using a 5/8 magnet mount antenna and 50 watts. The weather was clear, about 18 degrees.

Four of the five hunters had a direction and the hunt was off on schedule. Another repeater was breaking squelch, but I couldn't make out the call. There was some traffic on CFMC asking for directions to the Rock-n-Roll McDonalds downtown. I could hear the mobile station on the input. After a while, Tom drove up, sounded somewhat horse and returned home, as not to spread his cold. The other hunters arrived several transmissions apart. Mike reported finding many better hiding spots, but where I was was good also. His team had some trouble with equipment quirks. Charlie radioed in with equipment failure of the BNG unit and I directed him to munches at Portillio's next to Pheasant Run. Don asked for an extra transmission and would have drove by me twice if the snow bank were any higher. Greg had just replaced the board in the Dick Smith Doppler and had added shunt capacitance to the antenna diodes to reduce switching noise. It will be interesting to see if they caused the unit's erratic behavior, or if it was because it was not calibrated in time.

1. Tom N9CBA 9:02    2. Mike and Paul WA9FTS 9:14    3. Don W9RA 9:38    4. Greg N9SA 10:15

Charlie and Lex DNF

**February 28, 2007 CFMC Board Meeting**

Call to order 7:10PM

President: The repeater system has been invaded by "jammers". The FCC needs time stamped recordings of these incidents before they can proceed to help us. FCC also states Trustee needs to be proactive in dealing with these matters.

Treasurer: The Treasurer's report was accepted by the board to be printed in "Squelch Tale". Other Financial issues were discussed.

That the CFMC Board has agreed to retain the accounting firm of Ahlbeck & Company to prepare its IRS filings.

The Board plans to make revisions to the CFMC Articles of Incorporation to bring them up to date with our Constitution and By- Laws

Radio EXPO: Plans for Radio EXPO are moving along on schedule. Trips to The EXPO location are being planned to advertise and solicit venders.

Technical: Current repeater status: 2meter GOOD. 440 in need of some work and possible future replacement. 220 north is ok and 220 south not working. The Board has approved additional money's to complete the 220 replacement project. Previously The board approved the purchase of 2 220 machines to replace both North and South machines. Radio Rick W9XB has worked a bit of magic and has secured for CFMC at no cost more antenna space at the AON Building. Plans for this are being discussed.

Field Day: Plans for Field day are beginning and to start things off Andy Ronan N9TGR has been drafted to be the Field Day committee chairman.

VE Testing: Plans are going together for a general upgrade class. Discussion on changing the testing time to 6:30 and changing the testing room at the Edgebrook fieldhouse. Announcement will be made at a later date if any changes ARE made.

CFMC Picnic: Deer Grove July 21, 2007. A committee is being put together for this event.

Lots of discussion on various topics and planning for our GREAT events this year.

Adjourn: 9:00 PM

**FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

*February 28, 2007*

**February Income**

Membership Dues	\$255.00
Expo Tickets Sales	\$56.00
Expo Table Rentals	\$480.00
Expo Electric Indoor Sales	\$20.00
Expo Electric Outdoor Sales	\$10.00
<b>Total February Income</b>	<b>\$821.00</b>

**February Expenses**

February Meeting Refreshments	\$18.40
Squelch Tale Print & Mailing	\$79.80
Evanston PO Box Fee '07	\$28.00
Echo Link Server Fee	\$109.98
Office Supplies-Secretary-File Folders	\$8.28
Postage - Secretary	\$8.19
Postage - Cash Advance to Secretary	\$50.00
Field Day '06 Clamp & Creamer	\$8.19
Ant. Lease '07-Sutler-1600 Condo Assoc	\$175.00
Telephone 2 Meters & 440 AON	\$55.61
440 Control	\$26.59
Ham Help Line - 773	\$28.42
Expo Postage	\$166.14
Expo Misc Printing	\$88.82
Expo Ticket/Flyer Printing	\$852.00
Expo Supplies	\$6.51
Expo Travel	\$33.00
<b>Total February Expenses</b>	<b>-\$1742.93</b>

Net Loss for February 2007	-\$921.93
Available Cash as of 01/31/2007	\$14,354.72
Less February Net Loss	-\$921.93

**Available Cash as of 02/28/2007 \$13,432.79**

Submitted by Dennis M. Krawczak

### **LICENSING STATS: NUMBERS GOING DOWN EXCEPT TECH**

The latest numbers are in and it looks as if very little upgrading has been taking place lately. But George Mc Couch, K3UD, thinks that's all about to change. And change for the better.

George Mc Couch, K3UD, posts licensing statistics on QRZ.com. He says that the number of Extras, Advanced, General and Novice class license holders has decreased somewhat in recent days.

Mc Couch says that as of January 1st, there are only 108,205 Extra class license holders. that's down by 208 since the last reporting period. Also gone are 866 Advanced, 704 General and 683 Novice class operators.

Meantime, the Technician class continues to grow. Their number stands at 322,966 and representing a growth of 1,896 licensees. It also means that Technicians now account for half of the 655,832 licensed United States hams.

But here is the good news we promised. In an editorial note, George says that he thinks that we have hit the low point for upgrading and its likely to get better from here. He says that since the FCC has announced that it will soon be dropping the code test requirement he expects to see an initial, and likely ongoing gain in the General and Extra class trickets.

Mc Couch thinks it could be that the bottom line number of 655,832 is about as low as it will. But he adds that it will be interesting to see what the effect the upcoming rules change will have.

This is K3UD's analysis the numbers of individual FCC licensees for the months of October, November and December 2006. He also covers many other license statistics in addition to the quarterly figures we have presented here.

All of K-3-U-D's very comprehensive licensing statistics appear on the Home and News Pages at QRZ.com but you may

### **EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW RECORD FOR SOLAR POWER**

A new world record achieved in Solar Cell technology. Boeing-Spectrolab says that it recently achieved a conversion efficiency of 40.7 percent. This, establishes a new milestone in sunlight-to-electricity performance. More is on line at [www.energy.gov/news/4503](http://www.energy.gov/news/4503).

### **EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW CHIPS IMPROVE MOBILE RECEPTION**

STMicroelectronics has announced that it is sampling a new digital AM/FM radio receiver chipset for use in automotive applications. The company says that the chips sophisticated digital signal processing techniques allow them to provide excellent reception quality while reducing interference even in the presence of challenging signal conditions. Jointly developed by ST and Bosch's subsidiary, Blaupunkt, this advanced digital receiver chipset integrates audio signal processing and Radio Data System decoding.

### **EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: APPLE SAYS NO MORE CRT**

The folks who brought you the Ipod and the McIntosh computer have said goodbye to C-R-T monitor. Apple Computer will completely rid its product line of cathode-ray-tube monitors. As such, the Cupertino California based manufacturer becomes one of the first major PC makers to sell only flat-panel displays.

The move is part of an industry-wide trend both in computers and televisions toward the use liquid-crystal display, or LCD, monitors, which are sleeker, less weighty and more power-efficient than their older CRT counterparts.

Apple was among the first computer companies to bet big on LCD in 2001 when it used the thinner technology to replace all of its CRT displays except for its candy-colored, egg-shaped iMac line. By January 2002, Apple replaced those CRT-based iMacs with a revamped, space-saving design featuring a swivel LCD display.

The maker of Macintosh computers introduced an \$899 iMac specifically for schools and students, replacing the eMac, which was the company's last remaining CRT-based model.

As an aside, with CRT based monitors and receivers being phased out all across the entertainment and data processing industries, replacement picture tubes are getting harder and harder to find.

# April 2007

## What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

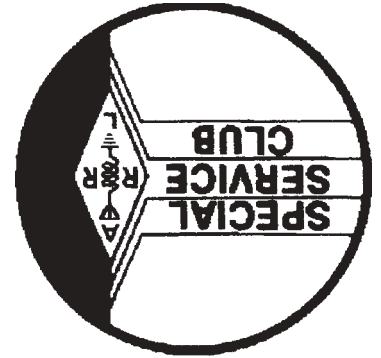
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<b>1</b> April Fools Day	<b>2</b> KB9KDX N9YOI	<b>3</b> Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	<b>4</b> K9TRG	<b>5</b> K9ILX N9WDY	<b>6</b> K9VCZ	<b>7</b> KC9BXQ																																																																																																	
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<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> KF9MY W9GI W9KMP	<b>17</b> Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ K9JQ	<b>18</b> GENERAL MEETING Location *TBA VEC Testing Tonight K9OBL N9NOQ	<b>19</b> WA0SZO	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> FOX HUNT Harlem Cermak Shopping Center 7:00pm KG9KR WD9BIC																																																																																																	
<b>22</b> KA9R N9LGT	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Satern Net at 8:00pm CFMC Net at 9:00pm on 146.76 MHZ	<b>25</b> KA9ZZD	<b>26</b> KB9RAP	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> N9ABI																																																																																																	
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**Members Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month!**

**\* TBA = To Be Announce**



AFFILIATED CLUB



Address Correction Requested

**CHICAGO FM CLUB**  
**PO BOX 47648**  
**CHICAGO, IL 60647-0648**

**OFFICERS**

**President**

James Small WA9EMY

**Vice President**

Ken Havlick KA9TRG

**Secretary**

Melissa Meneely KB9QWZ

**Treasurer**

Dennis Krawczak KC9ENZ

**Board of Directors**

Tom Stobble KB9AJM

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](mailto: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.