



# Squelch Tale



NOVEMBER 2011

THE CHICAGO FM CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOL 2011 NUMBER 11



*If you're interested in conducting or demonstrating a program at the next meeting, please contact the board at [hamhelp@chicagofmclub.org](mailto:hamhelp@chicagofmclub.org)*

## 2012 Board Elections are Approaching

**Yearly director elections coming next month.**



As you know, election time is around the corner. This year we are electing five Directors. A list of the nominees is in the latest meeting minutes. At the November 16th, 2011 meeting the nominees will announce whether they accept or decline to run. Then the ballots will be written up and votes cast in December. The winners

will be announced at the December 21st meeting. You must be a current member in good standing to vote and you may vote for up to five people -- each person only once. Remember to vote for the people you feel will make the best decisions for you, the members, as the board represents you.

See you soon,

Tina KC9CMO

**Next General Meeting:**

Edgebrook Field House

Nov. 16, 2011

8pm

**James W. Rogers, Jr.  
N9OOK  
Silent Key**

James W. Rogers, Jr., 60 yrs, of Berkeley, beloved son of Ruth, nee Laffins, and James W. Sr.; dear brother of Helene (Michael) Majka. 42 year civil defense for village of Bellwood and Amateur Radio Operator Call # N900K, Explorer of Fire Post of Boy Scouts. Resting at Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home, 10501 W. Cermak Rd., (2 blks W. of Mannheim Rd.) Wednesday 3 to 8 p.m. Funeral Thursday, 9:15 a.m. to St. Domitilla Church, for 10 a.m. Mass of Christina Burial. Interment Queen of Heaven. In lieu of flowers, contributions to St. Domitilla Church appreciated. Michael J. Brunno Funeral Director., 708-203-5400

Squelch Tale is the monthly newsletter of the Chicago FM Club, available on an exchange basis, or to anyone outside the coverage area. Ad space is available; write for details.



**Got ideas or feedback?**

Please send comments to the editor, Ben NN9S, at [sussman@red-bean.com](mailto:sussman@red-bean.com). We're always looking



## Board Meeting Minutes

Pine Grove Restaurant

October 21, 2011

### In Attendance:

**Tina KC9CMO, John N9AWQ, Bob KB9SAR, Don W9DMW, Jeff KC9TCT, Tom N9IHZ, Lynne N9CBE, Steve K9VO, Troy K9TOW, Tony N9VVO and Howard N9KTW**

Meeting called to order at 7:48pm.

Don motioned not to accept Bob's resignation for Website Chairman and Net operator, Howard seconded and all agreed.

Howard Motioned for Don to be EXPO Chairman for 2012, Lynne seconded and all agreed.

At 9:15pm, Don motioned to adjourn, Howard seconded and all agreed.

Submitted by Tina KC9CMO.



## Minutes from Special Board Meeting

Edgebrook Field House

October 19, 2011

### In Attendance:

**Tina/KC9CMO, Tom/KB9ALM, Howard/N9KTW, Bob/KB9SAR, Steve/K9VO, Lynne/N9CBE**

Tina/KC9CMO called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm. The required nominations for Directors were made.

Lynne/N9CBE nominated by Howard/N9KTW.

Steve/K9VO nominated by Tom/KB9AJM.

Bob/KB9SAR nominated by Lynne/N9CBE.

Tom/KB9AJM nominated by Steve/K9VO.

## Minutes from General Member Meeting

Edgebrook Field House

October 19, 2011

### In Attendance:

**Mike/WA9FTS, Elton/WA9AYQ, George/W9GFH, Tom/N9IHZ, Vern/K9VRT, Tina/KC9CMO, Mike/W9MJH, Wanda/KC9LRZ, Stan/NK9A, Carl/K9CKJ, Joe/WA9KOD, Ben/NN9S, John/N9AWQ, Troy/K9TOW, John/KC9QIO, Jeff/KC9TCT, Steve/K9VO, Dan/KC9USO, Howard/N9KTW, Jerry/KC9POL, Lisa/K9LIS, Tony/N9VVO, Leroy/KF9MY, Lynne/N9CBE**

President Tina/KC9CMO called the meeting to order at 8:24 pm. Bob/KB9SAR was added to the agenda.

Second reading for Shari Harlan/N9SH, Patrick Aimers/N9SOC, Andrew mason jr/WA9KPZ, Henri Primo/KC9WIR, Joseph Perry/K9TPP, Mike Heckel/K9OMG, Eric Hultgren/N9MCS, Lowell Feinstein/AB9UU, Bernard Dekok/KC9SGV, Raymond Sands/N9JVZ, Ronald Blocker/K9JON. Second reading and present Mike Hansen/W9MJH, George/W9GFH moved to accept and Jerry/KC9POL seconded. Mike voted in by all.

Treasurers report: Checking at Chase \$14375.00, Savings at PNC \$37444.00, Petty cash, \$56.00.

Steve/K9VO brought up the idea that we need a new Radio Expo Chairman. In discussion Lisa/K9LIS suggested we appoint a co-chairman or trainees to learn about the job. Tom/KB9AJM suggested we seek advertising for inclusion in the newsletter. Bob/KB9SAR brought literature

Joe/WA9KOD nominated by Steve/K9VO.  
Don/W9DMW nominated by Steve/K9VO.  
Rich/KB9LWY nominated by Howard/N9KTW.

Nominees have until the next meeting to accept or decline.

from Cable Experts for members to have and see what they have available.

Tom/N9IHZ nominated Vern/K9VRT for director, and Vern/K9VRT nominated Tom/N9IHZ. Jerry/KC9POL nominated Stan/NK9A who declined. Bob/KB9SAR nominated Troy/K9TOW.

Howard/N9KTW moved to adjourn, Dan/KC9USO second. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Now for old business: At Radio Expo, John/N9AWQ made a motion to purchase from WB9LTK, a Micor UHF repeater for \$125.00. Don/W9DMW second and all agreed. Steve/K9VO made a motion to link the WX9MCS repeater to CFMC repeater for the Tuesday Information net and the Friday Night Fun net. All agreed. Don/W9DMW made an on-line motion to increase gas reimbursement from 14c to 51c. Steve/K9VO second. All agree.



Submitted by Leroy/KF9MY.

Howard/N9KTW moved to adjourn, Lynne/N9CBE second. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Submitted by Leroy/KF9MY

# CMFC 2m Foxhunt Report

October 15, 2011

by Mike WA9FTS

Fall has indeed arrived, but it was a cool and nice night for a foxhunt. Paul, Carol and I drove out to Lombard and found an unfinished gated community north of Butterfield Rd and east of Meyer Rd. We took Renaissance Rd north off Butterfield to the end and parked there facing south. Several hunters were a little late and the hunt was started at 8:12 PM. We were surprised to see a flashlight approach us and it was Matt on foot. He parked on Royce Blvd to the SE and walked into the woods and west to Renaissance to us for the win. About 9 minutes later Tony (without a flashlight) arrived on foot also and claimed 2nd place. Eight minutes later Don arrived in his van and told me I was not making the repeater. I could not open my window and then realized I kept the heater on and drained the battery. We quickly grabbed the jumper cables out of the back of the van as Don told Tom and John what was happening. We got the engine started and I continued to transmit on time. Twenty three minutes after Don scored for 3rd, Janet drove up with John and Tom to end the hunt. We met at TGI Friday a mile west on Butterfield Rd.

Results:

1. **Matt KC9SEM, Patty, Jacob 8:39:20**
2. **Tony AA9CC, Joan KC9QQY 8:48:50**
3. **Don W9RA 8:56:20**
4. **Tom N9CBA, John WD9EXW, Janet 9:19:20**



# Tom KB9AJM's Corner

Hello once again everyone. I hope everyone had fun this past Halloween with the kids and at grown-up costume parties.

I have been reading about the severe floods that have been happening in Thailand. The floods have taken the lives of

over four hundred people so far.

Amateur radio operators have been helping out in the disaster. The hams are using HF

Communications

in the 40 meter band

from 7060 - 7063 Khz. They are also using VHF two-way communications and also repeaters. The economic cost is said to be at 3 billion dollars. Earlier heavy monsoon rains have hit Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines.

I cannot believe that it is November and near the end of the month it will be Thanksgiving. I hope everyone has a safe and "Happy Thanksgiving!"

Next month will be the election of Board Members at the December CFMC meeting, which will be held on Wednesday the 21st at 8:00pm at the fieldhouse.

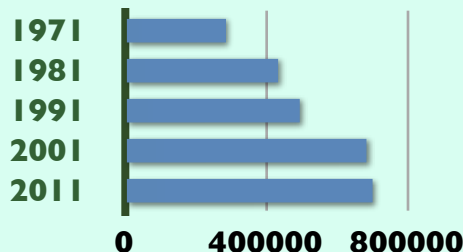


## US Amateurs Now 700,000 Strong

As the third quarter of 2011 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, began calculating the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, as well as the number of new licensees. "At the end of September, I saw that the number of hams in the US was high," she said. "When I started comparing that number with other years, I found that it was an all-time high." For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US.

"When looking at the three current license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- these numbers are

impressive," Somma explained. "The number of Technicians peaked in March 2011 at 342,572, while in September 2011, we saw both Generals and Extras peak at 159,861 and 125,661, respectively. As new Technicians earn their Amateur Radio licenses, and current Technician licensees move on to General and Generals upgrade to Extra, this can cause up-and-down fluctuations for these totals."



Somma said these high numbers mean that hams are upgrading and renewing in larger numbers and staying interested in hobby: "These are compelling statistics and I am thrilled to see the highest number of amateur radio licensees ever! When I began working at the ARRL back in the mid 1980s, there were approximately 450,000 amateurs in the US. Our VEC program conducted an average of 55 sessions a week. Today, we administer approximately 150 exam sessions each week, and our total number of licensees across all three license classes continues to grow each year."

-- reprinted from recent ARRL letter

# Technical Report

by John N9AWQ

The volunteer tech staff has been busy this past summer with repairs, evaluation, and system enhancement.

## 6 meters

The micor repeater is functional with good sensitivity. There is a problem with the power amplifier and the system is running at half power. The CW IDer needs to be reprogrammed as not to cut out audio traffic during its ID cycle.

## 2 Meters

Much work has gone into evaluation and repair of the link sites.

*Lake Barrington:* Complete evaluation of this site indicates it is functional and properly grounded. Only issue remaining is positioning of the link beam.

*Waukegan:* A temporary site is online until a complete evaluation of the site and equipment is performed. This evaluation is scheduled for the next few weeks.

*Worth:* Thanks to Wayne W9BBB, the site is rebuilt and operational.

*Lutheran General:* An evaluation and level set is scheduled in the next couple of weeks. The audio level is too high and causing miss-voting into other less quieting sites.

*AON:* This site is operational however, is subject to sensitivity problems due to a high ambient noise level and issues with the antenna. We also lost the Crescend amplifier during the hot summer months. A back amplifier is in service with increased ventilation.

## 1.25 Meters

*220 Mhz South:* Again thanks to the efforts of Wayne, the heat-related failures were addressed. A

long-standing problem with the audio muting is resolved.

## UHF

Due to the high noise levels at the AON center making the UHF repeater unusable beyond a 10 mile radius, the system has been moved to a test location for a 30 day evaluation. Reports indicate a more consistent coverage in the Chicagoland area. We did this move at a cost of \$15 for parts. There is a problem with duplexer that needs to be addressed. If the site proves effective, the coax will be replaced and better grounding will be performed. Long term, as finances allow, the antenna will also be upgraded.

The progress we have made to the systems are only possible due to the efforts of the individuals involved. They have worked as a team tirelessly to repair our repeaters and I am confident with this group effort that we can continue the good work started. There is much to be done and if we continue to work together smarter and fiscally responsible with good engineering practices, we will return the systems back to their full potential.

Thanks to all listed below who have spent their time and talent for the betterment of the club:

Wayne W9BBB

Howard N9KTW

Bob KB9SAR

Jeff KC9TCT

## CMFC Event Calendar

December 3	8am Breakfast @ Pindo's 2pm Lunch @ Abruzzi
December 10	8am Breakfast @ Pindo's 2pm Lunch @ Abruzzi
December 17	8am Breakfast @ Pindo's 2pm Lunch @ Abruzzi 8pm <b>2m Foxhunt</b>
December 21	8pm <b>General Meeting</b>
December 24	8am Breakfast @ Pindo's 2pm Lunch @ Abruzzi
December 31	8am Breakfast @ Pindo's 2pm Lunch @ Abruzzi

### CMFC 2m Info Net:

Tuesdays @ 9pm on 144mhz repeater

### CMFC 220mhz Preservation Net:

Saturdays @ 8pm on both 220mhz repeaters





## Club Officers

### President

Tina Odrowski, KC9CMO

### Vice President

Howard Goldberg, N9KWTW

### Secretary

LeRoy Rimas, KF9MY

### Treasurer

John Lozar, N9AWQ

### Board of Directors

Tom Stobble, KB9AJM

Lynne Bosnyak, N9CBJ

Robert Odrowski, KB9SAR

Steve Bosnyak, K9VO

Rich Duel, W9XB

### Trustee

Howard Goldberg, N9KWTW

### Chairs

Radio Expo	W9DMW
Field Day	NK9A
Fox Hunts	WA9FTS
Website	KB9SAR
Refreshments	N9CBE
Newsletter	NN9S
Technical	N9AWQ
VE Testing	AB9OP

## Repeaters

### 146.760 / 146.160 MHz PL 107.2

250 watt transmitter on the Aon Center. 8 receive sites.  
Echolink is available as node #62478.

### 443.75 / 448.75 MHz PL 114.8 (P-25 System)

Quantar Aon Center: Analog and Digital P-25 modes

**Note: Analog mode is priority at all times.**

Monitor in (decode) PL 114.8

### 224.10 / 222.50 MHz- Carrier Squelch

25 watt transmitter at 500 feet in Chicago

### 224.18 / 222.58 MHz- Carrier Squelch

25 watt system, 125 foot tower in Worth

### 29.660 / 29.560 PL 107.2

250 watt 10 Meter Transmitter, 200 ft in Park Ridge  
Receiver downtown Chicago at 500 ft (split site)

The system is under construction.

### 51.110 / 52.810 Mhz PL 107.2

100 watt 6 meter transmitter on the Aon Center

### 441.90625 D-Star reflector 1C

25 watt D-Star machine on the Aon Center



*The Chicago FM Club is a not-for-profit amateur radio club operating the WA9ORC repeater systems. Membership is open to all licensed amateurs and is encouraged of those who use the repeaters often. For information, email us at [hamhelp@chicagofmclub.org](mailto:hamhelp@chicagofmclub.org)*



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*Address Correction Requested*