



Volume
2008
Number 12
December

Presidents Corner

I would like to start by wishing all of you, The Officers, Board Members, Dick Hersh, and all of The CFMC Members, a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukka (Mi' modiam Lesimkha L'shana Tova), Feliz Novidad, Joyexu Noel, Natale allegro, Frohe Welihnachten, Nollaig Shona Dhuit, or Nodlaig mhaith chugnatI, I hope this covers all the members Happy Holiday Cheers. This is the last month for myself as an Officer of the club, and I'm glad to pass the gavel as the wife and myself, have had some health problems and that and work have consumed all our time. I would like to thank the Officers, and Board Members, and Dick, for all their time and effort that they have donated to the club. I would like to thank Lynn (N9CBE) for her time to put together the Christmas Party as well as Picnic gatherings. I hope that in the coming year we will see some

new club repeaters go up on the air. I can say only with unity, can things go forward. I would like to welcome the winners, don't know who they are yet, aboard in their new positions in the club. There is also the position for next years Radio Expo Chair person available you need to let us know if your up for the job.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday to All. Jim WA9EMY



CLUB ROSTER

The latest roster of the Chicago FM Club will be sent out to all members during January. If there are any changes you would like made in your listing, the treasurer MUST have them by the last weekend of December. The changes can be left on the Ham-Help line (773) 262-6773 or by e-mail to Mike WA9FTS at mikeb2006@comcast.com.

PRINT VERSION OF SQUELCH TALE

If you received the print version of the newsletter and you have an e-mail on file with the Club, there is something wrong with your e-mail address. When I get a notice that the newsletter cannot be delivered via e-mail for whatever reason, I send out Squelch Tale by regular mail.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

The 220 mhz guys brunch meets every Saturday morning 8:00 am at Brandy's Restaurant.

Amateurs and any one interested in becoming an amateur radio operator, please join us.

It is at Cicero/Archer at 52nd street.

It is close to Midway Airport.

Brandy's Restaurant 5200 S. Cicero Ave.

Chicago, IL 60638 773-767-0400

Any questions, contact Kelvin at w9bbq@sbcglobal.net

hope to see you there! The 220 mhz guys

Kelvin-W9BBQ Julius-W9GHZ Steve-KB9DSQ

CFMC Meeting Minutes Nov 19th, 2008
Edgebrook Field House

Taken by Tina KA9CSO

The meeting was called to order at 8:05PM.

First Readings – Jeff Anderson KQ4G, Greg Rosenberg AB9MZ

Third Reading and Vote – Mike Ciccetti KC9OPV, Steven Brichta WB9ZNL, Tom Zimmerman W99TTY, Jim Boothe KB9VR, Daniel Majewski KC9IYY, Karl Arriola KE4MSA, Joseph Jamen WB9SIK. Motion to accept – Ken KA9TRG and Steve K9VO. All were voted in unanimously.

The minutes of the last meeting was tabled to the next meeting.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Expo Exhibitor Chairman Mike WA9FTS said the number of tickets sold was 903. Income was \$10867 and expenses was \$18230 for a loss of \$7363.

Don W9DMW brought up the 6 & 10 M repeaters and asked why nothing was done. He said he has attempted to talk to Rick W9XB with no response. Mark WB9QZB said Rick has tested

it and it works but we need the gateway. Steve K9VO said it is ready to go and frequencies have been applied for and awaiting a response. Mark said the best option is to take digital pairs, divide them and advise the IRA and put them in line to get it on the air temporarily. Ken KA9TRG suggested the tech committee must have a deadline on projects and Mark QZB said to set monthly meetings instead to improve communications.

Tom KB9AJM asked about the AON building issue and Howie said the installation people have the new 2M antenna and we are awaiting them through Rick. Don W9DMW said with the 6 M repeater he can tune the duplexers. The repeater will not ID and that everyone would have to ID the repeater when they get on.

The meeting closed at 8:39PM with a motion by KA9TRG and seconded by WA9AYQ.

CFMC Foxhunt Report - November 15th, 2008 -
Tony AA9CC

After scooping in the afternoon, we decided to hide in the car close to home and found a spot on Google maps surrounded by bean fields and a pond (1). After arriving, I duct taped the 10 element beam to the telescoping mast. The mast is made from PVC pipe, 2, 1-1/2 and 1 inch diameters. It's floppy over 15 feet high with the weight of the beam and coax in the wind. The mast was tapped to the fence and aimed to the start point in Addison, approximately 19.6 miles away at 19.0 degrees. I could hear KB9DIM, W9RA and N9QDO on the input. We waited for the new hunter, John N9QDO to drive from the old start point. He had out of date information from the CFMC web site. I was surprised that all of the hunters heard the signal, only 5 watts. I used low power so the hunters would not think I was close. The hunt was off at 8:15. Don, W9RA had a erroneous south by south east heading from the start and took 294 to I55 south. Tom, N9CBA exited too early on 355, at Maple street in Lisle, took surface streets and encountered a roadblock. Charlie, KB9DIM, had made a faulty repair in the afternoon of an audio cable in the BMG unit, apparently difficult to access. He and tossed in the towel on Cass ave near Argonne. We saw a flashlight at the far end of the pond and by the time it got halfway down the gravel access road, headlights appeared. They went into a run and I thought we would see the sequel to the KB9DIM/WA9FTS incident of last September. I expected the car to drive around the water tank and score, but Don stopped at the end of the road and got out. John, N9QDO scored for first place at 9:15 with Tom, N9CBA following. Munches where at Red Robin near Clow airport. Don, K9VGJ would have joined us if munchies were close to

Continued on Page 3

his house and offered to change it to Portillos in Elmhurst. Mike, WA9FTS corrected the misleading web information at home during the hunt. (WM Note: Misleading info was found on another site. The info on the web was up-to-date). John, N9QDO is from Gurnee, a ham for 18 years and holds a general class license. He is working to upgrade to extra. He has an HF rig and several antennas on the car. John has no foxhunting equipment so he followed Tom, N9CBA on the hunt. Tom is offering a special deal on his unused and lent out MK4 Sniffer DF unit that requires a 10 kc offset. (2) Tom, N9CBA hides next week for the 34 foxhunt. Results 1 N9QDO, N9CBA 2 W9RA 3 KB9DIM (DNF)

RADIO QUIZ

Nothing is what it seems, it seems as you shall see in this quiz, bursting at the seams with unseemly seas of semantics. See? Si!

- 1) When Ray Charles sang a song featuring this place's name, I don't think his mind was on this country.
 - 2) This African country has the same name as one of England's currencies.
 - 3) Which North African country was incorporated into the name of a famous jazz standard?
 - 4) These two DXCC entities lie in different oceans, but have the exact same holiday name!
 - 5) This flightless bird shares its name with a deleted DXCC entity.
 - 6) These Pacific Islands bear the name of a wise king.
 - 7) The name of this country also refers to a straw hat popular at the beginning of the twentieth century.
 - 8) Surprisingly, this African country figured prominently in the 2000 US election.
 - 9) This island is the favorite of Short Wave Listeners (SWLs).
 - 10) What Pacific island gets you up in the morning and what deleted DXCC entity keeps you awake?
 - 11) Name the ugly duckling that grew up to become a deleted DXCC entity.
 - 12) You can dress yourself in clothing bearing the names of these two entities.
 - 13) This is another pair of island DXCC entities sharing a holiday's name, but in different languages.
 - 14) What African DXCC entity has the sweetest song?
 - 15) In colonial times, these Pacific Islands were named for the English earl who invented a famous lunchtime meal.
- Bonus: What noteworthy world events occurred when the cook dropped the platter holding Thanksgiving dinner?

Answers on Page Four

CFMC Meeting – Nov 19th, 2008 Edgebrook Field House

WA9FTS W9DMW K9VO N9CBE K9XOK KB9YEK
N9QDO N9LXF W9GFH K9MLM K9QLC Carol
Sparacio W9WIZ N9RLI KE9SJ KF9TB KA9TRG
KC9MSG KC9LRZ KC9MWC WD9DZV N9FXU
AB9OP W9SWW KC9OPV WB9QZB KA9OBZ
KB9AJM KB9JVQ KG9CL N9TGR N9KTW
Ron Janus WA9EXZ N9VKY WA9AYQ
K9MF N9PA KC9CMO KB9SAR KA2CSH

DZV's DITS AND BITS by Tim, WD9DZV

E-mails Asking for Personal Information Are Not from ARRL: We have received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.

New Basic Antenna Book From ARRL: For something that is often so simple to make, an antenna is remarkably difficult for many people to understand. The antenna is one of your shack's most important elements and can make your radio system a success. Now available from ARRL, "Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design" is a comprehensive introduction to antennas — basic concepts, practical designs and details of easy-to-build antennas. You'll learn how to make antennas that really work. This book will provide a foundation in antenna theory and design necessary for anyone undertaking more advanced topics and projects such as those presented in "The ARRL Antenna Book" This new book includes an introduction to antennas, as well as sections on dipole antennas, antenna impedance, transmission lines, practical two element

arrays, wideband and multiband antennas, monopole antennas, reflector antennas, Yagis for HF and VHF loop antennas, antennas for microwave applications, vehicle antennas, antenna measurements and an introduction to antenna modeling.

Continued on Page 4

Ham Radio Business: Turning to the ham radio business scene, Creative Services Software, Inc. has announced the availability of the Radio Operations Center Digital Desktop. Formerly called Pac Term for Kantronics TNCs and P K Term for Timewave and AEA products this new version includes a number of new features and enhancements in addition to re-branding as Creative's new Radio Operations Center product label. Lots more about Radio Operations Center Digital Desktop is on-line at www.cssincorp.com.

THE COST OF US HAM EXAMS: ARRL VS W5YI ON RAISING TESTING FEES

The cost of taking a ham radio exam through the nations largest Volunteer Examination Coordinator is going up, but the nations second biggest V-E-C says not so fast.

On November 6th, The ARRL VEC announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. Meantime, the nations other big VEC says that it will not be raising its exam rate.

Larry Pollock, NB5X, is the President of the W5YI-VEC. He says that the his organization will hold the line on the \$14 exam fee level charged applicants to take amateur examinations. That it will not will increase license examination fees for 2009.

It should be noted that each VEC across the country establishes it own fee schedule for providing examination services. As a result, there are almost as many different rates charged for examinations as there are VEC's. Depending on the VEC, the cost runs anywhere from the high of \$15 to one that charges no fee at all to administer an exam.

OLD TIME RADIO: THE CHICAGO WLS STORY BY W9CHI

Scott Childers, W9CHI, has authored a new book titled Chicago's WLS Radio. Childers tome is an illustrated history of the station known as the windy city's Big 89. It takes you from the stations inception in the 1920's by Sears Roebuck in all the way to last year's Big 89 Rewind special. W9CHI tells Newsline that it was a book that he wanted to do. Many well-known celebrities, like Gene Autry, owe their careers to the Big 89, through the famous Saturday night program The National Barn Dance. And some rather famous air personalities such as Dick Biondi, Larry Lujack, and John Records Landecker became household names thanks to the stations incredible influence on the Chicago broadcast scene. Chicago's WLS Radio is part of the Images Of America series by Arcadia Press. More information is at W9CHI's website at [WLS History dot com](http://WLSHistory.com).

DX PROPAGATION: SCIENTISTS AY THAT THE -NEW SUNSPOTS ARE HERE

Improved band may soon be on their way. Scientists say that after more than two years of few sunspots, even fewer solar flares, the sun is finally showing signs of life.

David Hathaway is a sunspot forecaster of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville Alabama. In his opinion the solar minimum is behind us. He said that in October scientists counted five sunspot groups,. Hathaway says that this may not sound like much, but in a year with record-low numbers of sunspots and long stretches of spotlessness, five is significant.

Even more significant is the fact that four of the five sunspot groups belonged to Solar Cycle 24. That's the new and long-awaited next installment of the sun's 11 year solar cycle. Hathaway says that October was the first time sunspots from new Solar Cycle 24 outnumbered spots from old Solar Cycle 23.

Hathaway adds that this is a good sign that the new cycle is taking off. This will be welcome news to the ears of hams who have waited a long time to work some new and possibly rare DX. (NASA)



ANSWERS

- 1) Georgia, 4L
 - 2) Guinea, 3X
 - 3) Tunisia, 3V (A Night in Tunisia)
 - 4) Christmas Islands (T32 in the Pacific and VK9 in the Indian)
 - 5) Penguin Island, ZS0
 - 6) Solomon Islands, H4
 - 7) Panama, HP
 - 8) Chad, TT
 - 9) Heard Island, VK0
 - 10) Wake Island, KH9, and Java PK1
 - 11) Swan Island, KS4
 - 12) Jersey, GJ, and Bermuda (shorts), VP9
 - 13) Ascension (ZD8) and Easter (CE0) Islands
 - 14) Canary Islands (EA8)
 - 15) The Sandwich Islands, now the Hawaiian Islands (KH6)
- Bonus: The downfall of Turkey, the ruination of Greece, the destruction of China and the resurgence of Hungary.

January 2009

What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

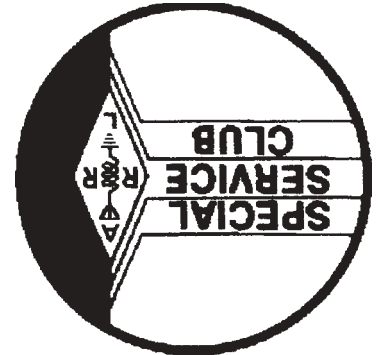
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Members Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month!

*** TBA = To Be Announce**



AFFILIATED CLUB



Address Correction Requested

CHICAGO FM CLUB
PO BOX 47648
CHICAGO, IL 60647

OFFICERS

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Vice President

Ken Havlick KA9TRG

Secretary

XXXXX XXXXX

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Fox Hunts WA9FTS

Ham Help K9FFY

Program/Picnic KB9AJM

Radio Expo W9DMW

Refreshments N9KTW

Squelch Tale K9FFY

Technical W9XB

VE Testing XXXX

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 last day of every month. Contact dick6614@sbcglobal.net

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 1200 feet. The eight receiver sites are located in Chicago, Park Ridge, Worth, Waukegan, Barrington, Downers Grove, Lake Calumet and Joliet. Short QSO's are encouraged during morning and evening rush hours. AutoPatch is available to members in good standing. Echolink is available to All. Write for details and access codes. Breakers should be allowed immediate access.

222.50/224.10MHZ Carrier Access

On site located of the Chicago Loop. 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. EchoLink is available to All Breakers should be allowed immediate access.