

Chicago FM Club Squelch Tale - March 2003

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THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We just had our monthly Board Meeting last Wednesday and I'm happy to report that the Club is on good financial footing thanks to Jim (N9RKU). Our trustee Howard (N9KTW) along with Radio Rick (W9XB), Ron (KC9MC) and Jerry (WA9KXZ) have been busy making sure the repeater is working properly. Mike (WA9FTS) has been doing a great job with our new web page. Bob (KA9HHH) and John (N9RNQ) have had a lot of success with their VE testing and it looks like Radio Expo 2003 is running right on schedule with Jerry (W9EG) as our table chairman.

One of the reasons things are going so well for the club is that the people mentioned in the preceding paragraph are not afraid to make a commitment. There are quite a few other people that are not mentioned here who also help the club a great deal, but the point I'm trying to get across is in order for anything to be a success you have to be involved. The Officers and Board members are always looking for new ways to improve on the club. If you have any good ideas why not come to our next meeting and let us hear about it.

This month's meeting will be our Mini Auction, so now's the time to locate all those treasures you have been hoarding and bring them to the Edge Brook field house on Wednesday March 19, 2003. Don't forget that the meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

You might notice a change in the squelch tail on the 2meter machine. This was done to accommodate echo link, which was temporarily moved there from the 440 machine.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next General Meeting.

73 de Phil N9PA

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of The Chicago FM Club will be held at 7:30 PM in the Edgebrook Field House which is located at 6100 N. Central Avenue. The entrance is on the west side of the street between Cauldwell and Elston Avenues. Just so you won't get confused, the address on the entrance is 5900 N. Central. As always, CFMC's general meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month which will make this meeting date March 19th. As you can see, we are having a mini-auction this month. Note the start time is one half hour earlier than usual. Please bring something for the auction if at all possible, look around the shack for all those treasures you've been meaning to sell off! See you at the meeting and don't forget to bring a friend!

MARCH MADNESS!!

For the printed May issue of "Squelch Tale", we will be offering members the opportunity to have their business card printed

in the Ad section of the newsletter absolutely FREE! You must have your business card mailed and at my QTH by no later than Saturday May 10th. They will be printed in the order they are received so don't delay.

With the large membership of this Club, it can be both helpful to the membership looking for goods and services as well as being profitable to you! I'll look forward to receiving your business card soon. My address is located on the back page of the newsletter or in the CFMC Roster. If you have any questions, just call me at home or E-Mail me at wd9dzv@arrl.net

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

For Second Reading At The March General Meeting

KC9YG Tom Palmer (N9PA K9FFY)

New Members

The following new members were voted in at the February general meeting;

W9MAQ Jim MacDonald

WB7DKZ Andy Barkley

N9MYC John M, Nebl

Membership Renewals

The following members renewed during January and February;

KC9AVM N9BCO KC9BF KA9CSO N9RDF WD9DZV WN9GUV N9HWV WD9JKW K9JQ KB9KJ WA9LST
W9MUF W9NHM AA9ON KB9ORA WB9PJW N9PQD WB9PTA KB9QPQ KA9R N9RWD WA9SJD WA9TWA
WY9U N9VGW W9WOC W9XB KC9YG K9ZAZ N9ZON

The following former members chose not to renew;

KC9AKX KA9VBC KC4VNU N9YII

MARCH BOARD MEETING

The March Board meeting was held at the Edgebrook Library. Those in attendance were;

N9PA W9EG K9FFY N9RKU KA9HHH N9KTW KG9MC WD0DZV W9HDD WA9KOD WA9KXZ KA9R

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Secretary K9FFY

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

Treasurer N9RKU

Jim said he is having problems with the computer and would be happy to keep the books on paper and have the information entered by someone else. The Board found no problem with that. Jim was not able to print out his report but said we are still solvent. N9PA made a motion to pay for our Internet address for the next 5 years at \$19.00 per year and save a bundle. N9RKU seconded the motion and the Board voted yes.

Technical

There is something wrong with the receiver on the 440MHZ repeater. There was a discussion about it but without the presence of W9XB, nothing was decided. N9PA would like to try the Echolink System on the 2 Meter repeater for awhile. N9RKU would like to offer the use of the repeater to a group during emergencies. Phil, N9PA, said he would like the group to request the use in writing rather than us offering it. It would just take a letter from them asking for same.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

CFMC MEMBER SERVICES

CFMC VE TESTING

CFMC offers VE testing for members and non-members alike. CFMC holds their VE Test Sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of each month 1 hour prior to the CFMC's general meeting (from 7PM to 8 PM) No applicants will be accepted after 8PM.

Requirements for testing are as follows:

1. Two (2) forms of Proper identification i.e. State Picture Drivers License, State Photo ID, Birth Certificate, Passport, Voters Registration Card, School Picture ID.....etc.
2. If applicable, your original valid FCC Amateur Radio License, a Certificate of successful completion of examination (CSCE), and a photocopy of each. The photocopies will NOT be returned as they must be submitted with your examination paper work.
3. A fee of \$10 will be charged for the examinations. We prefer that the fee be in the form of CHECK OR MONEY ORDER made payable to the "A.R.R.L." but cash payments will be accepted if only for the EXACT amount.

Bob, KA9HHH

CFMC QSL SERVICE

For those members who did not know, CFMC offers a QSL service to its members. If you use the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, this service could save you over \$70 a year! If you have any QSL cards that need to go to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, just sort them and send them to Tim, WD9DZV (via the Roster address) or bring them to the General or Board Meetings and give them to either Phil, N9PA or Rich, KA9R if I am not there! If you wish, you may drop them off at my house. It doesn't matter if it's 1 or 100, we'll take care of them for you. This service is for CFMC members ONLY!! Mailings to the ARRL QSL Bureau will be made at the end of every month, or more is needed, so those cards won't have to lay around while you get enough for a mailing. This service is just another one of the privileges of CFMC membership. If there are any further questions please feel free to call me, or e-mail me at: wd9dzv@arrl.net or tgarrity@sprintmail.com

De: Tim, WD9DZV

CFMC ARRL AWARDS MANAGER AND CQ FIELD CARD CHECKER

Are you trying for your Worked All States, or 5-Band Worked All States or that very difficult VHF-UHF Century Club Award (VUCC)? How about the CQ Worked All Zones or CQ DXCC awards? If so CFMC can help.

Not actually in getting your contacts or getting your QSL's back but, once you have the necessary cards confirmed that's where our CFMC ARRL Awards Manager and CQ Field card checker Tim, WD9DZV comes in. He can verify your application and your cards so that you do not have to send them off to someone in another city and chance losing them in the mail. Tim is usually at most of the CFMC general meetings or at the ARRL VE testing sessions held just before the SRO meetings. Tim can verify your cards there, or if you wish you can even mail your cards to him.

One point to remember, if there are any corrections on the card, like a correction from SSB to CW, then the card is no good. The ARRL rules specifically state that no corrections are allowed on a card, no matter who made the correction. We did receive a card from a station in Arkansas and they had written 20 in the "MHZ" column and then wrote 14 over it. Even though it could be argued that he tried to put 20 meters and then changed it to 14 MHZ the card has been altered and not valid. We sent it back to the station and requested a corrected card.

The ARRLaned CQ are now charging fees for most of the awards. Be sure that you bring a check made out to the ARRL or Appropriate person for CQ awards for the correct fee amount with you. Don't forget a large enough size SASE and the required amount of postage for me to submit the award. The Awards manager for ARRL awards now must submit the award form, not the applicant. CQ awards forms are still sent by the applicant.

73's and good luck in seeking your awards. Any questions, you can reach Tim, WD9DZV via the roster, E-Mail to: tgarrity@sprintmail.com or wd9dzv@arrl.net

FOR SALE

Ashton 20a Power Supply \$40.00

Yaesu FT5100 Dual band mobile \$150.00

Realistic 10 meter HTX-100 mobile \$25.00

Icom 2Gat 2-meter Handi talki with extra battery, mic & charger \$100.00

Kenwood TH78A dual band hand held with mic and charger \$200.00

MFJ UHF/NHF swr and watt meter \$15.00

MFJ HF swr/watt meter \$15.00

MFJ electronic keyer paddle \$25.00

I have been away from this stuff for a long time and am not sure of its value. I am willing to let it all go for an even \$500.00.

Tom Kraus

K9HWV

(708) 354-7226

tkraus@mazakcorp.com

AMATEUR SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT NOW IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 now has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. Idaho Sen Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version of the bill, S 537, on March 6. Original cosponsors were Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID). Florida Rep Michael Bilirakis put the latest House version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12. The measures, an ARRL initiative, have been introduced twice before in Congress. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, believes this third time could be the proverbial charm.

"Actually, this is the best opportunity that we've ever had to get this bill through, because more members of Congress than ever before are paying attention to ham radio now," said Haynie, who's been in Washington this week to talk Amateur Radio with lawmakers and regulators. In addition, Haynie pointed out, the House and Senate will be considering major spectrum reform bills, and the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act could serve as an amendment to that sort of legislation.

HR 713 and S 537 are aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The legislation would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere.

Haynie encouraged members of the Amateur Radio community to contact their senators and representatives to urge their cosponsorship, which lends support to legislation while it's in committee. The House bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; the Senate bill will be

considered by the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. In addition, although more members of Congress than ever understand and appreciate the benefits of Amateur Radio, some may remain reluctant to sign onto a technical piece of legislation without some indication of support from their own constituents.

"The League is doing all it can, but we know the success or failure will be in the hands of the amateur community," said Haynie, who pledged the ARRL's continuing efforts to get the bill enacted. "Letters and e-mails are the key to getting legislation passed."

A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site

<<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>. Those writing their lawmakers are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <specbill03@arrl.org>.

The measures would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur-Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands" that would substantially reduce

their utility to amateurs. The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available (or will soon be available) via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

MOVIES ONLY HAMS COULD LOVE

Pileup On The Orient Express

Gone With The Wind — A Yagi Story

Gone With The Windom — The Sequel

Dxpedition To Skull Island By KING/KØNG

Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Lid

The Maltese Falklands

Name is James, Call is BØND — Agent ØØ73

To Live and Let Diode — ØØ73

CasaBlanker

Silence Of The Hams - Starring Rachel Squelch

M1SH MASH — With RF Burns

Nightmare On Elmer Street — With JA1SON

VERTICLE!! Directed By Alfred Switchbox

DZV DITS AND BITS

Pioneer 10 spacecraft sends last signal: Talk about weak-signal DX! NASA says that after more than 30 years, it appears the venerable Pioneer 10 spacecraft has sent its last signal to Earth. Pioneer's last, very weak signal was received on January 22. NASA engineers report Pioneer 10's radioisotope power source has decayed, and it may not have enough power to send additional transmissions to Earth. NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN) did not detect a signal during the last contact attempt February 7. The previous three contacts, including the January 22 signal, were very faint with no telemetry received. The last time a Pioneer 10 contact returned telemetry data was last April 27. NASA plans no additional contact attempts for Pioneer 10, which is 7.6 billion miles from Earth. At that distance, it takes more than 11 hours 20 minutes for the radio signal to reach Earth. More information is available on the Pioneer 10 Web page <<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/tmp/1972-012A.html>>.

ARRL LEAGUE LINES

Support Growing For Favorable 40-Meter Realignment

With World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) getting under way in about three months in Geneva, support is growing for two favorable proposals to create a 300-kHz worldwide 40-meter allocation. ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) seek a return to the 300-kHz allocation that existed worldwide prior to World War II but that now exists only in the Americas. Delegates to WRC-03 will attempt to address—and possibly eliminate—the overlap on 40 meters between amateurs in the Americas (Region 2) and broadcasters elsewhere (Regions 1 and 3).

"There is encouraging news," says ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, in his "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial set to appear in April QST. He reports that, thanks to the efforts of IARU volunteers and others, more than 30 countries now have gone on record to support either one or the other of two favorable 40-meter realignment formulas. Sumner said more support is needed, but he called the interim head count "a good start."

Most popular among the half dozen realignment schemes outlined by participants at last November's WRC-03 Conference Preparatory Meeting is so-called Method B. This approach calls for a three-stage transition that would begin by allowing Region 1 and 3 amateurs on 7100-7200 kHz on a secondary basis starting in 2005 and end with all ITU regions gaining access to 7000-7300 kHz by the end of 2009—with the top 100 kHz shared with fixed and mobile stations in Regions 1 and 3. Broadcasters would shift upward to 7300-7550 kHz worldwide.

For US and other Region 2 stations, such a change would mean an end to deafening nighttime phone band QRM from broadcasters and the necessity to operate split-frequency to work stations in Regions 1 and 3 on SSB.

Sumner says Method B is now a European Common Proposal with initial support from 17 CEPT administrations. At least three other countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific have also expressed support for Method B, he said. The IARU team now is working to gain the support of additional administrations in Regions 1 and 3 either for Method B or for the similar Method A, Sumner reports. Otherwise identical to Method B, Method A does not include any sharing with fixed and mobile services.

In the Americas, a dozen ITU Region 2 countries last month agreed to support an Inter-American Proposal that's virtually the

same as the so-called Method D. Proposed by Canada, Method D would provide 300 kHz worldwide for amateurs by shifting broadcasters in Regions 1 and 3 upward

by 200 kHz. Region 2's broadcasting allocation would remain unchanged. IARU Region 2 is now working to expand the list of Region 2 countries supporting that plan.

The US so far has taken no position on the 40-meter realignment issue, although it has long supported a 300-kHz worldwide, exclusive allocation for Amateur Radio. The FCC WRC-03 Advisory Committee has recommended that Method A be a US proposal, but the National Telecommunications and

Information Administration (NTIA) has not yet agreed.

"Acting on behalf of the federal government users of the radio spectrum, the NTIA has been advocating 'no proposal' from the US, a position that the ARRL is working hard to overcome," Sumner points out. "A small number of federal agencies claim to be concerned that their backup circuits on HF would be affected by an upward shift of broadcasters."

Sumner also calls it "unfortunate" that some broadcasters persist in efforts to link the 7 MHz WRC-03 agenda item with another that deals with the adequacy of broadcasting spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz. Sumner said

the broadcasting spectrum item is "a separate issue with an entirely different genesis.

ARRL Expresses Concerns About Ham Radio Impact Of 70-CM Changes

The ARRL says two FCC-proposed actions could negatively affect Amateur Radio. One would substantially expand the geographical area in the US subject to power limitations on 70 cm. The other would deploy National Weather Service wind-profiler radars in the 448-450 MHz segment.

"The Commission has proposed two actions that have a potentially substantial adverse impact on a large number of Amateur Radio operators in this proceeding," the ARRL said in comments filed this month in ET Docket 02-305. "In each case, the Commission can minimize that impact."

In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) late last fall, the FCC proposed on behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to—among other things—more than double the size of the geographical area in New Mexico and Texas where amateurs in the 420-450 MHz band would be limited in power to protect military radiolocation service operations. Amateur transmitters in certain geographical areas already are limited to 50 W PEP "unless expressly authorized by the FCC after mutual agreement, on a case-by-case basis" between the FCC district director and the applicable military frequency coordinator—⁹97.313(f). The NPRM also reflects action by NTIA specifying

the operation of federal government wind profilers in the band 448-450 MHz.

Acknowledging that the Amateur Service is secondary to government services in the band, the ARRL nonetheless asked the FCC to ensure that the affected zone in Texas and New Mexico "is minimized as much as possible, consistent with protection of military facilities." The ARRL also requested the FCC to create "a streamlined procedure for case-by-case exemptions" from the power restrictions.

"It is difficult for ARRL to address the contention of the Army that amateur power in excess of 50 W PEP in the additional protected areas requested by the Army would cause interference to military radiolocation facilities involved in missile tracking," the League said in its comments, "because the claim made by the Army is not substantiated by any technical information." The proposed area would include all of New Mexico and all of Texas west of 104 degrees W longitude. The ARRL said it was "not intuitively obvious" that such a large restricted area was necessary.

The ARRL concluded that a 50-W power restriction was "not a substantial burden" on many FM repeater users but that it could mean lowering the outputs of some critical repeaters used for emergency and public service work or taking them off the air altogether. It also could affect so-called weak-signal, experimental and Earth-Moon-Earth operations, the ARRL said. More than five dozen repeaters in the affected region could be affected, the League estimated.

Concerning the wind profilers, the League said it had understood that the National Weather Service—which operates the

radars—would notify ARRL of their locations as selected. "Ideally," the League said, "since the amateur repeaters are incumbent in the band now, the National Weather Service should select sites that minimize the effect on those repeaters."

EMPTY BOXES

If you go down to my basement, you will stare in amazement, at the collection of boxes you'll see. From ceiling to floor, empty cartons galore, every size, every shape there can be. There's one from a Kenwood, that works really well, and one from a Yaesu that I'm trying to sell. There's a printer, a disk drive, a monitor too, and of course a computer, (the one called Big Blue). There's a microwave oven, and a wireless phone, and yes, another computer, (but this one's a clone). Three power supplies, one electronic key, two VCR's and a color TV. There are many more boxes, the list doesn't end, and I better stop now, not to bore you my friend. But they're piling up higher and higher each day, and to walk in my basement well there just is no way. What if something should fail and be sent back for repair, what would I do if the right box isn't there. I never could handle the pain and the stress, of not being able to ship U.P.S. But I now have the answer to this worrisome plight, and it came from my spouse, as she told me last night. "The solution is easy and plain as can be, get rid of those boxes, it's those cartons or me."

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