



Volume 2008 Number 9 September

Presidents Corner

September's here and that means the summer is winding down, and we have yet to have our busiest club function, and that would be The Radio Expo. This President is hoping for still lower gas pricing, this will allow for the members as well as those who did not attend last year, because they thought it was too far. Every member, as well as the ham community in this the Chicago Metro area, should go to this ham fest and draw your own conclusions, and you will find out that this location in Boone County is by far the best decision this club has made. Fresh air, country surroundings, and the smell of the farms. I would like to mention that our D-Star, as well as our 6 mtr, repeater is ready to go with the exception of the frequency, we are still waiting for the Illinois Repeater Coordinator to give us, so we can move on and get it on the air. Some of you have seen the WA9ORC on the test bench, this is the server that you see running a being tested at WB9EXL's place in AZ. This is not a repeater, but the brains that run the repeater, giving you the gateway, for communicating around the states or better still the world. This is ready to go, we are just waiting for Radio Rick to give us the go ahead, so both repeaters can be installed. So what are you waiting for Radio Rick, let's get it done all you have to do is let Ron(WB9EXL) know and he will ship the works out to be installed. Ron will be in the Chicago land vicinity at the end of the month, and it is said that it may only take three hours to get it installed, up and running if we have every thing on the site, and all goes as planned. I did forget to mention that we will have a good number of vendors, at this ham fest,

and by the way did I mention the immaculate rest rooms at Boone County Fair Grounds. And for you wrestling fans, you can see some Pros in action on Saturday. Looks like we will have perfect weather for this event, and the foods good as well. Hope all will come out for Two days of fun and getting together with your friends if you still have any ha! ha! And I would like to mention we will have a form, on D-Star and your guest speaker will be none other than Mark(WB9QZB) who is the connected to the very fine D-Star repeater NS9RC. So hope all of you will come out with the family and have a wonderful day.

Sincerely Your President Jim WA9EMY



Radio Expo - September 13 & 14

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

Meeting called to order 8:05 PM

Jimmy (WA9EMY) announced he is not resigning.

There was a roll call of those present at 8:07.

Treasurer's Report by Mike WA9FTS.

CDs have \$55,500 and \$10,161 as a balance, checking accounts have \$1316 and \$1352 and \$25.

New members application was presented – Martin AC6RM and Jerry KC9MWC were present and voted in as new members.

Steve K9VO – Steve gave an update on Radio Expo and the need for a Spanish-speaking person to canvass the vendors. None came forward.

Mike WA9FTS said that we should buy a digital projector. N9TLB has one available for \$300. Jim WA9EMY called for a Board vote and it was approved.

Rick W9XB visited the Worth, Downers Grove and Lake Calumet sites and got them up and running. The 440 site is also running. D-Star is ready and tuned up. Jimmy WA9EMY offered Rick help in setting up D-Star and has a friend in Arizona willing to help. The members discussed getting D-Star temporarily on the air. Jimmy asked Rick about the 6M on the air. Rick will install it when the time permits. Jimmy talked to Kermit about a 10M site and it is still available. Mike WA9FTS wants to inventory all club property and put it in a database which should include repair history and photos.

Mark WB9QZB announced a digital conference in Elk Grove Village in Sept (26-28). Andy N9TGR announced the W9DXCC convention on Sept 21st. Jim WB9H, who showed up late on Sun at Expo last year, wants to be taken off mailing lists in the future. He complained that he paid for a full ticket and most vendors were packing up. Well, you can't please everyone. The meeting adjourned at 9:05PM.

CFMC 2M Foxhunt – August 16th, 2008
By Charlie KB9DIM

Another beautiful summer evening, with mild temperatures, and clear skies. Charlie KB9DIM, the fox, chose a hiding spot in DesPlains, just east of the I-294 tollway, and adjacent to the former Maine North High School. The hunt started slightly late, by just a few minutes. All the hunters reported

hearing the fox's signal. The fox was using a Yeasu FT-8800 mobile radio, putting out 15 watts, into 50 feet of RG-8 coax, feeding a 5/8 J-Pole antenna, which was hanging in a tree about ten feet above the ground.

1st AA9CC 8:46 2nd WA9FTS 8:47 3rd N9CBA 8:54
 4th W9RA 9:05

We went to TGI Fridays in Glenview, for dinner.

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

FCC TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register <<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>>; no date has yet been set for publication.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program — from a low of \$11.70 to a high of \$50. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during Fiscal Year 2009, collecting \$184,734 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago.

Continued on Page 3

Those holding “personalized” call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such “heritage” vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the “New Users Register” link <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the “ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes” page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>>, while the “Instructions for License Renewals or Changes” page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers. There is additional information on the “ARRL VEC’s FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices” page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>>. License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the “ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ” Web page. The FCC’s forms page also offers the required forms. The FCC will increase the vanity call sign fee from \$11.70 to \$12.30, effective September 25, 2008.

DXCC Yearbook Includes Corrected DXCC Honor Roll:

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the 2007 Honor Roll list published in the August 2008 issue of QST was inadvertently produced from a “corrupted report feature” in the DXCC software. “Since the DXCC Honor Roll report is too large for a line-by-line review, random samplings [of the list] were checked and many [listings] were found to be okay,” Moore said. “It was not until the complete report was published that we found the report had more errors than originally thought. Publishing a simple correction in an upcoming issue of QST is not possible. We have expanded the 2007 DXCC Yearbook to accommodate a complete reprint of the 2007 Honor Roll list. This is something many of you have suggested in previous years. The 2007 Honor Roll list will also be published on the DXCC Web site and

this list will be separate from the current ‘live’ online Honor Roll list. We regret any inconvenience caused by this and we appreciate your patience and understanding.” The 2007 DXCC Yearbook is the largest ever, with an additional 16 pages, and features articles about the year’s DXing activities, the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup and DXCC Challenge standings. The DXCC Yearbook is mailed free to all ARRL members who have submitted a DXCC application between January 1 and December 31 of the prior year or are current on the DXCC Honor Roll. Copies are also available for \$5 plus postage. To get your issue, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

New HF Digital Protocol to Debut at September Conference:

WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, will be unveiled at the upcoming ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Chicago September 26-28.

Hobby radio author Tom Kneitel, W4XAA, SK:

Tom Kneitel, W4XAA (ex-K2AES), died August 22 at age 75. He was a prolific author of articles and books on monitoring, CB radio and building electronics projects.

ARRL Applies for Expansion of 500-kHz Experimental License:

On August 22, the ARRL applied to the FCC for expansion of the 500-kHz experimental license WD2XSH. If approved, this application will raise the total number of stations from 20 to 40. This will provide greater geographic coverage, including Alaska and Hawaii, and will provide more opportunities for ground-wave testing. Also included are requests for an expanded frequency band (495-510 kHz) and portable operation within 50km. The current four modulation modes (CW, PSK-31, FSK-31, and MSK-31) are included.

Good News From S21 Land , Bangladesh.

Since 2004, amateur radio license issuing authority in Bangladesh had stopped taking examinations and issuing licenses to the enthusiast. After continuous lobbying for the last four years, members of the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League - BARL had finally been able to make the concerned authorities understand the significance of Ham Operators in a country with frequent natural disasters like floods and cyclones.

Continued on Page 4

As part of the latest development, the BTRC has decided to resume the process of issuing Amateur Radio Licenses and take examinations regularly every month. Good news is hardly heard from anywhere and it is more welcome when it comes from a country like Bangladesh and even more appreciable when it is for a hobby like the Amateur Radio.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: ELECTRONS BEHAVE LIKE LIGHT IN CRYSTAL

A team of researchers at Princeton University's Materials Research Science and Engineering Center has observed electrons moving through a crystal of bismuth while behaving like light.

The Princeton group fixed a crystal of bismuth onto a flexing beam, or cantilever, and then placed this apparatus in a high magnetic field created at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. This device can generate magnetic fields that are more than a million times stronger than the earth's faint magnetic field. Under such an enormous magnetic field the cantilever twists. The way it twists tells the Princeton researchers about the subtle new kind of matter in the bismuth crystal.

Scientists are very excited by this discovery. They say that the research which was supported by the National Science Foundation and detailed in the journal Science, could lead to new kinds of news electronic devices.

FCC UPDATES

As previously reported here on Amateur Radio Newslines, a coalition of consumer groups alleged in a complaint last month that users wireless microphones are unwittingly violating FCC rules that require licenses for the devices. In its filing, the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition accused manufacturers of deceptive advertising in how they market and sell the microphones, which largely operate in the same radio spectrum as broadcast television stations.

The FCC, in a notice released Thursday, August 21st, said its enforcement bureau had opened an investigation regarding the charges. The agency also is proposing that the sale and manufacture of some of the devices be banned.

The FCC says that wireless microphones that operate in the same frequency bands as UHF broadcast television stations are intended for use in TV, film and stage production and should not be in the hands of the general public. Most owners of the microphones are

unaware that FCC rules require them to obtain a license for their use.

The FCC rarely enforces the licensing requirements on the microphones. This is because there have been so few complaints and because in theory these wireless mics are programmed to avoid any interference to operational television channels in a given geographic area.

NAMES IN THE NEWS :

W6AWO SAYS KPH IS STILL SENDING MORSE

Richard Dillman, W6AWO, reports over the W-I-A News that the KPH transmitting and receiving sites north of San Francisco are one of the last places left where one can see a real coast station in operation. Their transmitters cause the whole building to vibrate as their mercury vapor rectifiers flash in time with the Morse being sent. At the receive site the operating room is flooded with the music of Morse as it was in the golden years.

For those who can't pay a visit, 3 videos will give you an idea of days at the station. The videos include "KSM Station Operations", "Antenna Maintenance at KPH/KSM" and "Press Wireless PW-15 Transmitter". To see them go to Web site www.radiomarine.org/ and scroll down to "MRHS Videos". (WIA News)

HAM TECHNOLOGY:

WINMOR TO BE UNVEILED AT THE DCC

Meantime, back in the United States, something new will be unveiled at the upcoming joint Tucson Amateur Packet Radio and ARRL Digital Communications Conference that could end part of the ongoing contrivernary over Winlink 2000. The biggest complaint being that the mode requires a special, high priced proprietary modem. Now, that's about to change thanks to a new digital protocol called WINMOR.

According to information supplied by Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, WINMOR, is a digital protocol designed by Rick Muething, KN6KB for use in the High Frequency ham bands within the Winlink 2000 network. It is implemented through a Windows application that uses a computer sound card for all the analog-to-digital and digital to analog conversions. And while still in the final development stage it reportedly provides error-free transfers within 200, 500 or 2000 Hertz bandwidths. A demonstration of WINMOR is slated for the Digital Communications Conference in Chicago to be held September 26th to the 28th. Its public release is still a few months away. If it proves out as most believe it will, WINMOR holds the potential of putting high speed digital messaging on the high frequency bands into the bands many radio amateurs who have been hesitant to purchase a dedicated Pactor 3 modem. (WB9QZB)

October 2008

What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

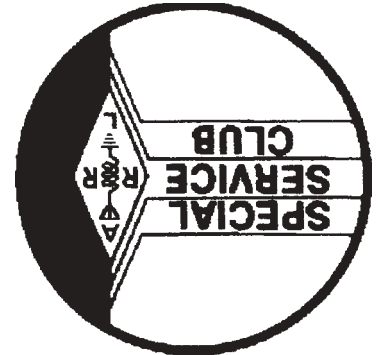
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Members Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month!

*** TBA = To Be Announce**



AFFILIATED CLUB



Address Correction Requested

CHICAGO FM CLUB
PO BOX 47648
CHICAGO, IL 60647

OFFICERS

President

Jim Small WA9EMY

Vice President

Ken Havlick KA9TRG

Secretary

XXXXX XXXXX

Treasurer

Mike Brost WA9FTS

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Tom Stobble KB9AJM

Lynne Bosnyak N9CBE

Andy Ronan N9TGR

Steve Bosnyak K9VO

Rick Duel W9XB

Trustee

Howard Goldberg N9KTW

Chairmen

Field Day N9TGR

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.