



**Volume
2009
Number 9
September**

Presidents Corner

Radio Expo is here. It is up to the members to support it and spread the word. Since you will be reading this after the hamfest, I hope you among the many who helped make it a success. This also means buying your ticket and helping out at the fest and not expecting others to get it done.

The weather seems more like October than September. I hope we got a break and had good weather for a change.

Another topic is the upcoming election of Board members for 2010-2011. Instead of complaining about things going on in the club, run for the Board and make things happen. We need more doers and less complainers.



Ken KA9TRG

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.

**CFMC Meeting Minutes 08/19/09
Edge Brook Field House**

Taken by Tina KC9CMO

Attendance:

WA9FTS, KA9TRG, N9CBE, K9VO, KC9CMO, KB9SAR, WA9KOD, N9LXF, N9KTW, KB9YEK, KB9AJM, N9PA, KE9SJ, KC9PQY, WA9KXZ, KC9QCY, W9DMW, W9XB, KC9PDM, K3EYL, N8QVT, KC9MSG, KB9SMU, N9HKN, N9PA, WB9QZB, W9WKR, WD9DZV, N9TRG, AB9OP, WA9AYQ, KC9LRZ, KF9MY, K9OG, K9MF, W9GFH, N9OS, KC9OPV, KB9OOR, KE9NT, N9LEN, AND W9CHI

Meeting called to order at 8:20pm.

Minutes for the last months meeting were approved. Howard N9KTW motioned and Elton WA9AYQ 2nd.

Treasurers report:

Mike WA9FTS announced the balance of WAMU \$3698.31 and National City \$1000.00.

Old Business:

Ken KA9TRG stated he advised Dick to make room for Up and Coming Events in Squelch Tale and announced all may submit entries to Tina KC9CMO at t.odrowski@sbcglobal.net. Rick W9XB advised Barrington, Downers Grove and 6 meters are up and running but Waukegan needs an antenna. He also the 2 Yagi antennas and the 6 meter antenna have been purchased for just under budget.

Expo:

Don W9DMW said everything is going well for Expo and Mike WA9FTS concurred that we might even need the third building.

Upgrades:

Per Marc AB9OP we had two upgrades. Joe KB9SMU to Extra and Tina KC9CMO to general. Congratulations!

Special THANKS to Mark WB9QZB for giving the DSTAR presentation.

50/50 – Chris KC9PDM won \$25. Good shot!

Howard N9KTW motioned the meeting adjourned at 8:41pm and Don W9DMW 2nd.

CFMC 2M Foxhunt - Aug 15, 2009

by Tony AA9CC

After an hour of looking I found this spot, a narrow walk between 2 fences, behind a water tank south west corner of I55 and I355 junction. Power was 35 watts through 50 ft of RG-8 foam coax to the 4 element foxhunt beam at 8 ft, pointed east at a water tower. 22 miles south from Centennial Park in Addison.(see google map link) All had a start bearing except N9CBA. A fairly routine hunt except for the large spider Joanie spotted near my neck. Charlie walked up at 8:45 followed my Mike and Paul a minute later. Don found us immediately after a requested extra transmission. Tom lagged at 9:20, spent some time walking on other side of tollway. All remarked that it was a good spot. Munches at Max and Ermas on 75th st and 355.

Scores: 1 KB9DIM with N9VRA 2 WA9FTS with N9LXF 3 W9RA 4 N9CBA Fox: AA9CC with Joanie

TREASURERS REPORT

National City - \$1000.00

Chase - \$2681.09

Mike WA9FTS

FORUMS AT RADIO EXPO NEXT WEEK

Saturday Sept 12th in Bldg #3

10 AM

“History of WLS” by Scott Childers W9CHI

11 AM

“Introduction to VHF/UHF Digital Voice & D-STAR” by Mark Thompson WB9QZB

**RADIO WAVES: TWO ASTRONOMERS PREDICT
SUNSPOTS WILL SOON COMPLETELY
DISAPPEAR**

Are sunspots disappearing for good? Two solar researchers say this is the case.

Most hams users know that there is a direct correlation between sunspots and high frequency propagation conditions. In general, the more sunspots there are, the more DX you will be able to work. This usually happens in 11 year cycles with the last solar maximum having

Continued on Page 3

taken place in 2000.

The current Solar Cycle which is Cycle 24 should peak in roughly next year in 2010. Only one problem. There have been few sunspots this year and very little easy to work DX. And now there may be an answer as to why.

Spaceweather.com reports that astronomers Bill Livingston and Matt Penn of the National Solar Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, have found that sunspot magnetic fields are definitely waning. Not only that. They say that sunspots could completely disappear within decades.

Livingston and Penn have been measuring solar magnetism since 1992. Their technique is based on a complex system called the Zeeman splitting of infrared spectral lines emitted by iron atoms in the vicinity of sunspots. They reached their conclusion by extrapolating their already collected data into the future.

But Spaceweather also says not to count out sunspots just yet. It notes that while the data of Livingston and Penn is widely thought to be correct, that any far reaching extrapolations may be premature. It says that this type of measurement is relatively new, and the data reaches back less than 17 years. In the end it appears as if the giant solar disk we call the sun is the only one who holds the answers to the future of its spots and how good DX will be in the coming years.

And a bit of an astro physics lesson before we leave this story. For those not aware, sunspots are made of agnetism. In other words a sunspot is not matter but rather a strong magnetic field that appears dark because it blocks the upward flow of heat from the sun's fiery depths. Spaceweather says that without magnetism, there would be no sunspots.

RADIO RULES: PECUNIARY INTEREST - A QST EDITORIAL BY K1ZZ

Whether or not you are a member of the ARRL, the editorial in the September issue of QST Magazine is must reading for any radio amateur who is even remotely concerned over the rising problem of ham radio being used for things its was never intended. We are talking about the attempt to commercialize the hobby by some cities, towns and employers under the guise of it being emergency preparedness

Titled "It Seems To Us: Pecuniary Interest" the editorial was penned by ARRL Executive Officer Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. In it he takes a close look at the level to which ham radio emergency communications has matured to where its looked upon as being among the most reliable in the world. And because of this, there are some who would exploit it as a way to have an emergency communications or public service network available

and on call at little or no cost to a given business or municipality.

Indeed, Sumner cites one case of a medical worker who objected to the FCC interpretation of rule 97.113(a)(3). This when that unnamed worker was told that employees cannot transmit communications on behalf of the hospital while on duty.

Sumner's editorial says that the ARRL Board of Directors is already looking at the problem, but he really implies that it is the nations ham community that must think carefully about what its being asked to do by municipalities, service providers and employers before signing on. K1ZZ notes that there are other radio services designated for the purpose of routine business communications and warns that ham radio must not permit itself to be exploited by those who are to frugal to use them.

It Seems To Us: Pecuniary Interest can be found on page 9 of the September issue of QST. Reading it aloud and discussing it might make for an excellent program for your next radio club meeting.

HAM HELP: FREE IARU LOCATOR MAPS

Everyone loves getting something for nothing so here's one for you. Free IARU locator maps are available in PDF format for downloading. Maps are available for many nations on all continents. The U-S map includes Hawaii and Alaska. You can find them at <http://iarumapsrussia.webs.com>.

Another article worth reading and discussing is titled Has Contesting Reached Its Peak appearing in the still available August issue of CQ Magazine. In it author John Dorr, K1AR, notes that even with a decline in the overall number of licensed radio amateurs world-wide that interest in radio sporting or contesting is at an all time high.

Dorr's article looks into the likely reason for this interesting trend and postulates on what the future may be. It's a good read for anyone with an interest in radio sports or the overall future of our hobby.

RADIO LAW: LACK OF GLOBAL DEMAND ENDS MOST COPPER THEFTS

It wasn't long ago when we were reporting that the theft of copper and other conductive metals was rampant. Power lines were cut down for their copper content, pipes in buildings under construction were ripped away, and wiring was disappearing.

But that's no longer the case as the global recession has resulted in a drop in demand for most metals with copper among the hardest hit.

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The price of copper reached an all-time high in mid-2008 of more than \$4 per pound on the world market, with the greatest demand from China.

That price then plummeted to \$1.50 per pound shortly after the global economic recession began last fall. This makes it not very profitable for a thief to risk his or her life for less than the price of a hot dog from a street vendor.

Add to this newly enacted laws like one in California that requires scrap metal dealers buying bulk metal to get a photo ID from anyone bringing in the items and to delay payment for three days. It also requires recyclers to photograph the items, pay only by check and take the seller's thumbprint. (Union-Tribune)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY:

THE LATEST DTV CONVERSION STATS

Almost everyone in the United States who watches television can now see it digitally

The A.C. Nielsen data survey company now reports that as of Wednesday, July 29th that 98.9% of United States homes are able to receive digital television signals. This is a gain of 229,000 homes in the last two weeks of July and 1.3 million homes since the week of the June 12 digital television transition.

Among the 56 local markets that Nielsen measures there are 32 markets not far behind with less than 1% of TV households completely unready. Albuquerque and Santa Fe New Mexico at 3.5% each continue to have the

highest percentage of homes that cannot receive digital signals from full powered U.S. television stations. In fact, the markets with the most households unable to receive digital television tend to be in the Western United States. That's where cable availability is lower than to the East.

The report did not say how long it might be before the remaining 1.2% without digital converters or a pay service will take to get on board with DTV.

CELEBRATING HPM AT AGE 140

And back in the United States the ARRL has announced that the Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday celebration is back this year honoring the 140th anniversary of the birth of the League's first president and co-founder who held the call letters W1AW. The special event is open to all amateurs, and the goal is to work the stations adding /

140 to their callsigns, and contact as many as possible during the event period, September 2nd to the 9th. A special certificate is available for making at least 25 contacts with endorsement increments of 25, and a maximum endorsement of 100. More information can be found in the September issue of QST magazine.

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HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: QRP KITS ON YOU TUBE

EA5BLP, has created a YouTube channel dedicated to QRP radios and their operation. The videos on there were recorded with a simple photo camera and mostly in a noisy afternoon of very poor propagation. QRP kits covered include the SW-20, Ten Tec 1330, Weber dual band, K-1, Heathkit hw-9 and others. The videos are at [www dot youtube dot com/user/ea5blp](http://www.youtube.com/user/ea5blp).

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ARRL / TAPR DCC IN SEPTEMBER IN CHICAGO

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the joint ARRL and Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Digital Communications Conference will again be held this year in the Chicago area. The dates are on September 25th to the 27th. This conference offers both technical and introductory presentations. The sponsors welcome the submission of both technical papers and presentations for the event covering all digital voice and data technologies. More information is on line at www.tapr.org.

October 2009

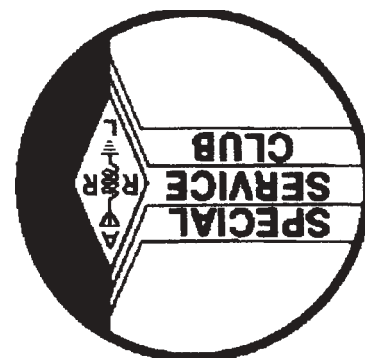
What's Happening This Month at CFMC!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
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Members Celebrating Their Birthdays This Month!

*** TBA = To Be Announce**

AFFILIATED CLUB



CHICAGO FM CLUB
 C/O MIKE BROST
 5127 N MONTEREY DR
 NORBRIDGE IL 60706-3245
 Address Correction Requested

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Radio Expo W9DMW

Refreshments N9CBE

Squelch Tale K9FFY

Technical W9XB

VE Testing AB9OP

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.