

squelch tale

VOLUME 60 | ISSUE 1

JAN 2025

Chicago FM Club



Winter Field Day 2025

Presidents Message

Hello to Everyone, Happy New Year

I hope you all had a fantastic New Year! As you can see, we're off to a great start for 2025. Our snowfall totals are small (YEAH!), and even though we'll have a few cold days this week, by Field Day, we should be back in the 30s or so. Once again, I'd like to say thank you and welcome to our new officers and board members for the 2025 and 2026 seasons.

By the time you read this, we'll be gearing up for Winter Field Day at Camp Bullfrog. I'm sure the event details will be included in the Events section of the Squelch Tale. As the Field Day Chairman, I'd like to take a moment to encourage you to stop by and help out by making some contacts with the gear we'll have set up for you to use. Remember, this is a radio club, and as a member, you're encouraged to get involved. The club officers and volunteers dedicate their time to organizing these events not only to teach about emergency radio setups but also to provide an opportunity for fun and fellowship with your fellow members.

The club's Friday Night Social for January 24th will be held at Cabin #5, and the club will be providing pizza for the social. There will also be food and drinks (pop/water) for lunch and dinner on Saturday. We kindly ask everyone attending to bring a side dish to share with the group. And as always, it's BYOB!

I look forward to seeing some new faces, and of course, it's always a pleasure to reconnect with the regulars.

The CFMC Club Meetings

This month's meeting will be held on January 22nd at 7:30 PM at the 16th District Police Station, located at 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Nate (N9BBM) will be giving a presentation after the meeting—come see what he has up his sleeve! Why not attend? This is your club. Come enjoy the evening with coffee, donuts, and good friends. Don't forget, VE testing will take place at 6:30 PM. Please let Vern (K9VRT) know if you'd like to test by emailing him at K9VRT@att.net or calling 773-777-2802.

73,
Paul | N9JZY, President

Upcoming CFMC Events

Fri - 1/17 | 7:00 PM
Friday Night Social
D'Agostino's Pizza
752 N Ogden Ave
Chicago, IL 60642

Wed - 1/22 | 7:30 PM
CFMC Monthly Meeting
16th District Police Station
151 N Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60630

Fri - 1/24 | 3:00 PM
Winter Field Day Setup
Camp Bullfrog Lake
9600 Wolf Road
Willow Springs, IL 60480

Fri - 1/24 | 7:30 PM
Friday Night Social
Camp Bullfrog Lake
9600 Wolf Road
Willow Springs, IL 60480

Sat - 1/25 | 10:00 AM*
Winter Field Day Start
Camp Bullfrog Lake
9600 Wolf Road
Willow Springs, IL 60480

**Club will be on site all day. Contest runs 10am
CST Saturday-3:59pm CST Sunday.*

Fri - 1/31 | 7:00 PM
Friday Night Social
Gullivers Pizza & Pub
17W517 Roosevelt Rd
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Fri - 2/7 | 7:00 PM
Friday Night Social
Gullivers Pizza & Pub
17W517 Roosevelt Rd
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Fri - 2/14 | 7:00 PM
Friday Night Social
Portillo's Harwood Heights
7308 W Lawrence Ave
Harwood Heights, IL 60706

Chicago FM Club Christmas Party 2024



Chicago FM Club Christmas Party 2024



Chicago FM Club Christmas Party 2024



Chicago FM Club Christmas Party 2024



REPEATER INFO

440 Mhz Repeater
443.750 (+5Mhz) PL 114.8
 Echolink: 62478 or WA9ORC-R
 Allstar: Node 555492

2M Repeater
146.760 (-0.6Mhz) PL 107.2
 Allstar: Node 555491

220 Mhz North
224.100 (-1.6Mhz) PL 110.9
 Allstar: Node 555490

220 Mhz South
224.180 (-1.6Mhz) PL 110.9

WIRES-X (System Fusion)
145.350 (-1.6Mhz) DCS 072

CFMC Emergency Frequency
146.760 Mhz
 (2M Repeater Output Freq)

All Licensed Amateur Radio Operators are welcome to use the CFMC Repeaters for normal station-to-station calls. If you like using them, and the people you hear consider joining our Club. -----

CFMC NETS

THE NIGHT WATCH

443.750 - Every Night @ 10pm

The Night Watch Net is dedicated to all fallen Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, and First Responders. CFMC's most attended net. This is a great net for first time check-ins. Come for the Knowledge, stay for the fun! -----

2 METER INFO NET

146.760 - Tuesdays @ 9:00pm

The 2 Meter Info Net is a rag chew style net which includes club info about upcoming club events and activities. -----

220 ROUND TABLE

224.100 - Wed @ 7:30pm
 (Except Meeting Nights)

Grab your 220 radio and join the 220 rebels on a social net focused on keeping the 220 band alive. Don't have a 220 radio? Don't worry, you can still join with allstar on Node 555490. -----

NET CONTROL

Sunday

Night Watch - 10pm
 Bill Deans | KD9TWA

Monday

Night Watch - 10pm
 Paul Gris | N9JZY

Tuesday

2M Info Net - 9pm
 Tom Stobble | KB9AJM
 Bob Sunden | N9XCD

Night Watch - 10pm
 John Cerza | N9SRV

Wednesday

220 Round Table - 7:30pm
 Jim Fanning | KD9WNR

Night Watch - 10pm
 Kevin E Suddoth | KD9ZDR

Thursday

Night Watch - 10pm
 T.B.D.

Friday

Night Watch - 10pm
 Marc Holland | AA9HM

Saturday

Night Watch - 10pm
 Joshua Hamlett | KD9MXV

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 more information, send us an email at wa9orc@gmail.com. -----

NIGHT WATCH NET STATS

December Check-In Stats				Monthly Check-In Stats		
	Call	Name	Check-Ins	Month	Call Signs	Check-Ins
1	N9UDN	Larry	24	July	114	709
1	KC9KXG	Jim	24	Aug	91	616
2	AA9KO	Tony	23	Sept	99	609
2	N9SRV	John	23	Oct	87	706
3	W9BAZ	Mikey	22	Nov	95	504
4	KD9TWA	Bill	20	Dec	99	549

RADIO of the MONTH

Kenwood TS-590SG



The Kenwood TS-590SG is a standout transceiver in the world of HF and 6-meter operations, combining exceptional performance with user-friendly features and affordability. Known for its impressive receiver capabilities and robust construction, the TS-590SG has become a favorite for operators who value reliability and versatility in their rigs.

At the heart of the TS-590SG is its advanced 32-bit DSP technology, which delivers remarkable signal clarity even in crowded band conditions. Its receiver is designed to excel in pulling in weak signals, making it a go-to choice for DXers and contesters. Whether you're navigating through noisy bands or working a pileup, the TS-590SG ensures that every signal stands out with clarity.

With 100 watts of output power across all bands and a built-in automatic antenna tuner, the TS-590SG provides flexibility for a variety of operating styles. The tuner simplifies setup and operation, ensuring optimal performance across different frequencies. From casual rag-chewing to competitive contesting, this rig adapts seamlessly to your needs.

The TS-590SG is built to meet the demands of modern amateur radio enthusiasts. Its USB connectivity allows for easy integration with computers, enabling CAT control, firmware updates, and smooth operation with digital modes like FT8 and PSK31. Enhanced menu options provide operators with a high level of customization to tailor the rig to their specific preferences.

For those looking to elevate their HF and 6-meter capabilities, the TS-590SG offers exceptional value. Its superior receiver performance, ease of use, and built-in features make it a perfect choice for both new and experienced operators. Whether you're chasing rare DX stations, experimenting with digital modes, or participating in contests, the TS-590SG delivers dependable performance every time. -----



TS-590SG

FREQUENCY COVERAGE

- RX: 30 kHz – 60 MHz
- TX: 160–6 meters (1.8–54 MHz, amateur bands only)

OUTPUT POWER

- HF/6m Bands: 100W
- AM: 25W carrier

Meeting Minutes

Chicago FM Club (CFMC) Meeting Minutes				
Date		December 18, 2024		
Location		16 th District, Chicago Police Department		
Meeting Called to Order		19:49		
Officers Present			Board Members Present	
President	Paul, N9JZY	Present	Bill, N9WRP	Present
Vice President	John, N9SRY	Present	Dave, KD9JHF	Present
Secretary	Bill, KD9TWA	Not Present	Vern, K9VRT	Present
Treasurer	(Open)	N/A	Barry, K9FMB	Not Present
			Joe, KC9BUF	Silent Key
Member Introductions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 15 Members and 1 Guest were present 				
Announcements				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill, KD9TWA is feeling ill and could not attend; Jim KD9WNR, Secretary Elect, will record the Meeting Minutes Barry, K9FMB will become the new Treasurer next month Bill, KD9TWA will fill Barry's term on the Board Doug, KD9YFR will fill the position left open by the passing of Joe, KC9BUF 				
Reading and Approval of Minutes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were polled to confirm receipt of the Minutes from the previous meeting as published in the Squelch Tale. A motion was made to accept the Minutes by Bill, N9WRP and seconded by Scott, N9ASI; The Minutes were accepted by voice vote. 				
Treasurers Report				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John, N9SRY presented the Treasurers Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barry, K9FMB will assume the duties of Treasurer next month Revenue expected with Membership Renewals beginning next month Jim, KD9WNR announced plans for updating the Club Roster as part of the Renewal Drive A motion was made to accept the Treasurers Report by Joe, KC9EJS and seconded by Nate, N9BBM; The Minutes were accepted by voice vote. 				
Committee Reports				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio Expo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John, N9SRY is considering possible change of venue and dates for 2025; Requested volunteers to assist and/or co-chair the committee. Tech Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John, N9SRY and Alan, KD9IMF will be visiting the 220 South Repeater Site Thursday 12/19/24. The future of that repeater site is to be determined. John, N9SRY and Nate, N9BBM plan a visit to the Wires-X Repeater Site to investigate internet access options. Website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim, KD9WNR reported that all Posts and the Club Calendar have been updated. Winter and Summer Field Day details are now published. Squelch Tale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fine work by Jeff, KD9RVJ, our Newsletter Editor was acknowledged by the Members Winter Field Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul, N9JZY announced the Winter Field Day details and encouraged all to come out and get "On the Air". 				
Unfinished Business				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim, WD9DZV gave back the Gift Card for 100 QSL cards he won at the Christmas Party; Jim, KC9KXG won the Gift Card in a Coin Toss 				
New Business				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul, N9JZY announced that Nate, N9BBM has been appointed the club Education Coordinator; He will be developing learning presentations for the club meetings. 				
Adjourn				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Scott, N9ASI and seconded by Joe, KC9EJS. The motion was passed by voice vote. The meeting was Adjourned at 20:30 				
50/50				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe, KC9EJS ran the 50/50; Won by Nate, N9BBM 				
Post Meeting Presentation				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nate, N9BBM gave a presentation on Meshtastic 				

Chicago FM Club
Meeting Minutes

Winter Field Day

2025

Winter Field Day History

Winter Field Day is an annual event that combines the thrill of amateur radio with the challenge of operating in the harsh conditions of winter. Established to ensure that amateur radio operators remain prepared for emergencies, regardless of the season, Winter Field Day emphasizes readiness, innovation, and camaraderie in the amateur radio community.

The origins of Winter Field Day trace back to 2007, when the idea was proposed as a counterpart to the popular summer Field Day event. While summer Field Day tests operators' skills in fair weather, Winter Field Day pushes participants to hone their abilities under more extreme circumstances. This cold-weather challenge underscores the importance of adaptability, as emergencies often occur when conditions are less than ideal.

Organized by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA), the event invites amateur radio operators to set up portable stations outdoors or operate from locations that simulate emergency conditions. Participants



earn points for their contacts, with bonuses for operating outdoors, off-grid, or under particularly challenging weather conditions.

Winter Field Day takes



place on the last full weekend of January each year. This year, the event begins at 16:00 UTC (10am CST) on Saturday, January 27, 2024, and ends at 21:59 UTC (3:59pm CST) on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Whether you're braving the elements in a snowy field, operating from a cabin in the woods, or testing your setup in your backyard, the event offers a unique opportunity to test your equipment, improve your skills, and connect with fellow hams worldwide.

Over the years, Winter Field Day has grown in popularity, attracting operators from all over the globe. Its emphasis on emergency preparedness, coupled with the fun and camaraderie of the event, has made it a beloved tradition in the amateur radio community. So, bundle up, test your gear, and join the action—you might just discover the joy of operating in the great outdoors during the heart of winter.

Winter Field Day Rules

Winter Field Day is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide. Participants can operate as individuals or as part of a group and can choose to participate indoors, outdoors, or from a remote location. The event encourages creative solutions to winter operation challenges,

Winter Field Day 2025

including the use of alternative power sources and innovative antenna setups.

Key rules include:

- All amateur bands, except for 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters, are allowed.
- Modes include CW, SSB, and digital.
- Categories include indoor, outdoor, and remote, with additional points awarded for outdoor and off-grid operations.
- All stations are limited to 100 Watts PEP.

Notable Changes to the Rules include:

- Event times have changed, and the event has been extended beyond 24 hours.
- Locations do not have to remain fixed during the entire event.
- Objectives (previously called bonuses) are now multipliers.

Participants can download the full set of rules from the Winter Field Day Association website to ensure compliance and maximize their scoring potential. (<https://winterfieldday.org/downloads/2025-rules.pdf>)

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Bill | KD9TWA Operating Radio during a past CFMC Winter Field Day

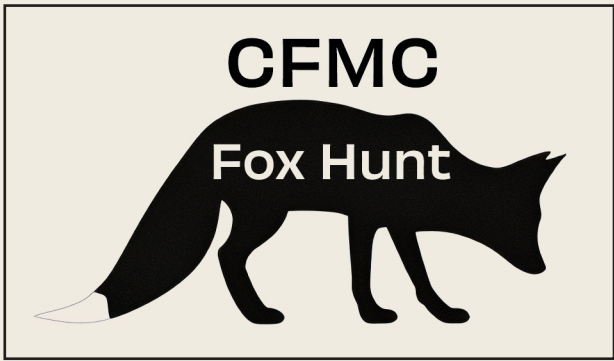
amateur radio community. So, bundle up, test your gear, and join the action—you might just discover the joy of operating in the great outdoors during the heart of winter.

CFMC Winter Field Day

This year, the event will be held at Camp Bullfrog Lake, located at 9600 Wolf Road, Willow Springs, IL 60480. The heated cabin at the site sleeps ten and includes a full private bath, electricity, a covered porch, a picnic table, a fire pit, and ample parking. Beds inside the cabin are available on a first come, first serve basis. The club will be operating under the callsign WA9ORC, with plans to run four transmitters. CFMC Field Day operations begin at 10:00 AM CST on Saturday and conclude at 12:00PM CST on Sunday due to our campground check-out time. Field Day also includes the picnic lunch, making it a perfect blend of radio operations and community camaraderie. The club will provide main courses, soft drinks, coffee, and water throughout the weekend. Participants are encouraged to bring a snack, side dish, or dessert to share, such as chips, dips, veggies, coleslaw, or desserts. Remember, it's BYOB, and we're already stocked with ice, condiments, and firewood.

Whether you're a new operator or a seasoned veteran, Field Day offers an opportunity to operate on all bands, frequencies, and modes under the club's callsign WA9ORC regardless of your license class while under the supervision of experienced amateur radio operators.

Join us for this fantastic event, where you'll experience the thrill of ham radio, enjoy a picnic with friends, and gain valuable hands-on experience. *Come for the Knowledge, Stay for the Fun!* We look forward to seeing you at Camp Reinberg for Field Day 2024! -----



CFMC 2M Fox Hunt

Dec 21, 2024

Fox;

Matt | KC9SEM

Matt KC9SEM and his family got the 3 hunt teams off at 8:02. We all headed south on 53. John's hunters selected St Charles Rd and we went west to Gary. The Tom and Don went further but came back to Gary Av. We went west on Camden and north on Covington to find Matt for the win. Shortly after Don came in followed by Tom to end the hunt. Since Matt was recovering from the flu, they did not join us and went home. Culver's at Schick Rd and Thom Rd was selected for the munch.

Results:

1. John WD9EXW, Janet, Mike WA9FTS - 8:19

2. Don W9RA

3. Tom N9CBA

Hiding Spot - 41.949380,-88.125812

Story by Mike | WA9FTS

Fox Hunt Info

-1st Sat Hunt - Across from Whole Foods, Elmhurst, Rt 83 north of St Charles Rd - CFAR input 147.750 MHz

-2nd Sat Hunt - Downers Grove Fitness & Rec Center parking lot, off Belmont Rd south of Odgen Av - Simplex 146.565 MHz

-3rd Sat Hunt - Centennial Park, Addison, Rohlwing Rd, 0.4 miles south of Lake St - CFMC input 146.160 MHz

-4th Sat Hunt - WoodDale Rd & Sivert south of Thorndale - Simplex 146.34 MHz

5th Sat Hunt - Contact Mike WA9FTS at phone number below as hunt info and rules may vary.

For more info contact Mike WA9FTS or call at 708-457-0966

Hunters gather about a half hour before the hunt. Everyone is invited to participate or ride along (call in advance). All hunts start at 8PM.



Official Merch

Head over to our online club store to find everything you need to stay warm and represent your club in style. From cozy hoodies and beanies to insulated mugs for your coffee during those chilly operating sessions, we've got you covered. -----



Club Dues

If you have not paid your 2025 dues please do so as soon as possible so you remain current with the club. Three easy ways to pay:

Online using Zelle to: wa9orc@gmail.com

In-Person to any Club Officer via Cash or Check

Send a Check by Mail to:

Chicago FM Club
P.O. Box 18013
Chicago, Illinois 60618-0013

Dues are

- \$30 – Full Member
- \$20 – Student Member (under 18 yrs of age/full-time Student)
- \$20 – Senior Member (over 65 yrs of age)
- \$20 – Disabled Member

Please put your Call Sign in the Memo of your check or on-line payment. -----

Winter Field Day 2025

CFMC 2025 Winter Field Day event will be taking place at Camp Bullfrog Lake from January 24-26, 2025. Setup begins at 3pm on Friday the 24th and as tradition the Friday Night Social will take place at the cabin afterward. Bunks are available on a first come first serve basis. It doesn't matter what class of license you have (or even if you are unlicensed), you can operate on all bands, all frequencies and all modes under the supervision of experienced amateur radio operators. Come for a few hours, or the day. The "operating" event runs for 30 hours from 10am CST Saturday (1/25) to 3:59pm CST Sunday (1/26) however, CFMC will only operate until 12:00pm CST on Sunday due to our campground check-out time. This is always a fun event for everyone who attends, so please "Come for the knowledge, and stay for the fun!" -----

January Meeting

Now that the holidays have come to an end, the CFMC monthly meetings will return to the regularly scheduled 4th Wednesday of the month. The meeting will take place at 7:30pm and be held at the 16th District Chicago Police Department located at 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60630. You do not have to be a club member to attend the meeting. But, only Club members can vote on club business and nominate officers. -----

Net Controllers

We are always looking for Net Controllers. If interested, let one of the controllers know, and they would be happy to assist you in feeling comfortable doing it. Make it your net. We are Amateur Radio operators, talking is one of our tools so doing a net is just like talking to your friends. -----

Newsletter Submissions

If you have something to contribute to next month's edition of the newsletter, please send it over to WA9ORC@gmail.com. -----

CFMC on the WEB



Check out our website
<https://www.chicagofmclub.org/>



Connect with us on Group.io
<https://groups.io/g/CFMC/>



Join us on Facebook



Follow us on X
https://x.com/CFMC_WA9ORC

Member Stats

Total Club Members: 169

Tech Talk



Exploring the Benefits of Digital Voice Modes in Amateur Radio

As amateur radio continues to evolve, digital voice modes like DMR, Yaesu's C4FM (System Fusion), D-STAR, and Motorola's P25 codec are gaining popularity. These technologies deliver improved audio quality, expanded connectivity, and innovative features, providing a fresh and exciting way to communicate.

Digital modes offer a modern alternative to analog FM. By using advanced encoding, they provide clearer audio, even in challenging conditions. DMR is widely used across global networks, C4FM (Continuous Four-Level Frequency Modulation) integrates seamlessly with Yaesu's WIRES-X system, and D-STAR simplifies worldwide communication through reflectors. Motorola's P25 codec, originally designed for public safety and professional communication systems, has also found a niche in amateur radio. Known for its robust performance and interoperability, P25 is valued for its reliability in challenging conditions, making it a practical option for hams seeking superior audio quality and network flexibility.

Programming is an essential step, particularly for DMR and P25, where a codeplug—a configuration file that customizes your radio—is required.

Many clubs and online resources provide pre-made codeplugs to simplify the process. If you don't have access to a digital repeater, a personal hotspot like Pi-Star or SharkRF OpenSpot allows you to connect to digital networks from anywhere by using an internet connection. Hotspots can improve accessibility, especially in areas without nearby digital repeaters. Engaging with online communities can provide additional tips and support for newcomers.

Adopting digital voice modes also provides opportunities for experimentation and growth. You can explore new digital systems, build your own hotspots, or integrate digital operations with other technologies, such as SDR (Software-Defined Radio). P25, with its focus on interoperability, offers another layer of exploration for hams interested in bridging amateur and professional communication technologies.

Digital voice modes are transforming the way hams connect. Whether you're chasing DX stations, participating in emergency communications, or simply enjoying a rag chew, these modes offer unmatched clarity and versatility. Explore this modern side of amateur radio, and don't forget to share your insights with your club—you might inspire others to join the digital revolution.

The Chicago FM Club operates repeaters that seamlessly support both analog and digital modes, catering to a wide range of communication preferences. The 70cm repeater on 447.750 offers dual functionality, operating as a traditional analog FM repeater while also supporting P25. Meanwhile, the CFMC 2M repeater on 145.350 supports analog FM alongside C4FM (Yaesu System Fusion), complete with WIRES-X connectivity. This integration enables users to access a global network of repeaters and nodes, providing worldwide communication possibilities with the convenience of radio control.

73, and happy experimenting! -----

Chicago

FM Club

Club Officers

President.....*Paul Gris* | N9JZY
Vice President.....*John Cerza* | N9SRY
Secretary.....*Jim Fanning* | KD9WNR
Treasurer.....*Barry Friedman* | K9FMB

Board of Directors

Bill Deans | KD9TWA
Bill Parsons | N9WRP
Vern Thorson | K9VRT
Dave Johnson | KD9JFH
Doug Harland | KD9YFR

Chairs

Repeater Trustee.....*Joshua Hamlett* | KD9MXV
Radio Expo.....*John Cezra* | N9SRY
Field Day.....*Paul Gris* | N9JZY
Fox Hunts.....*Mike Brost* | WA9FTS
Website Administrator.....*Jim Fanning* | KD9WNR
Website Editor.....*Len Pollack* | N9LEN
Website Editor.....*Bill Deans* | KD9TWA
Refreshments.....*Joe Degrazia* | K9CTA
Newsletter.....*Jeff Wuerth* | KD9RVJ
Announcements.....*Tom Stobble* | KB9AJM
Net Manager.....*Tom Stobble* | KB9AJM
Education Coordinator.....*Nate Russell* | N9BBM

Silent Keys

Joe Gratchner | KC9BUF
Wanda Nagel | KC9LRZ
Thomas Wilkus | N9TWE
Arthur G. Waner | WB9DQT
Michael Moline | KD9NJC
Bruce Schrader | N9QIY
Robert F. Schiff | KA9HHH
Rich Jurgaitis | KA9GQF
Anton J Wenskus | KA9CRV
Orson H. Baker | AB9WQ
James R. Liston | N9HSH
Patrick McPherson | WW9E
Marilyn Gardner | W9LUO
Thomas J. Dykas | NV9U
Andrew J. Galiardo | WD9GCN
Robert G. Felix | KF9TB
Jerry Aagard | N9IPH
Mitch Swedeh | WV9MJS
Joe Genovese | WA9KOD
Elton Caron | WA9AYQ
George Drish | WB9WIP

Club Contact

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