solden Lander La

VOLUME 60 | ISSUE 3

MARCH 2025

M Club Chicago FM Club C M Glub Chicago FM Club Cl I Club Chicago FM Club Ch l Club Chicago FM Club Ch Club Chicago FM Club Chi Club Chicago FM Club Chi Hub Chicago FM Club Chic lub Chicago FM Club Chic lub Chicago FM Club Chica ub Chicago FM Club Chica ub Chicago FM Club Chica ib Chicago FM Club Chica b Chicago FM Club Chicag b Chicago FM Club Chicag

Presidents Message

CQ, CQ, calling all CFMC Members

Hey there, my fellow members! Well, I think we're getting spoiled with this March weather. One day, it feels like we should break out the T-shirts, and the next, we need a hat and coat. But one thing's for sure—the weather is getting better!

And what does that mean? It means our Friday night socials will be outside a little more. It means the club will be trying to get out and do some POTA. It also means we'll be heading to a few hamfests for some good old-fashioned radio fun. This year, we're looking into organizing a nice motorcycle ride for all the members who have bikes. But don't worry—if you don't ride, you can always follow along in your car!

CFMC isn't just about ham radio. We like to incorporate our other hobbies into the club to make things even more enjoyable. If you have an idea for an event, put the details together and bring it to a meeting. Present it to the officers and board members, and be ready to help get it off the ground!

I also want to take a moment to say thank you— First, to all our officers and board members for the work they do. Second, to our newsletter editor, technical and education coordinator, VE staff, repeater tech, and his helpers. And of course, to all the net controllers and those who step up when we need a hand. You (and 99% of the members) know who you are—thank you so much!

CFMC Club Meetings

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26th, at 7:30 PM at the 16th District Police Station, 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 come out to a meeting? This is your club. Enjoy the night with coffee, donuts, and good friends.

Don't forget—VE testing starts at 6:30 PM. If you want to test, please let Vern, K9VRT, know in advance at K9VRT@att.net or call 773-777-2802. -------

73, **Paul Gris** | *N9JZY*, *Chicago FM Club President*

Upcoming CFMC Events

Please check on the air for the most up to date info

Fri - 3/21 | 7:00 PM Friday Night Social D'Agostino's Pizza & Pub

3131 Thatcher Ave River Grove, IL 60171

Wed - 3/26 | 7:30 PM CFMC Monthly Meeting 16th District Police Station

5151 N Milwaukee Ave Chicago, IL 60630

Fri - 3/28 | 7:00 PM Friday Night Social Ricobene's

252 W 26th Street Chicago, IL 60616

Fri - 4/04 | 7:00 PM Friday Night Social Gullivers Pizza & Pub

17W517 Roosevelt Rd Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Fri - 4/11 | 7:00 PM Friday Night Social Portillo's Harwood Heights

7308 W. Lawrence Ave. Harwood Heights, IL 60706

Fri - 4/18 | 7:00 PM Friday Night Social D'Agostino's Pizza & Pub

3131 Thatcher Ave River Grove, IL 60171

Fri - 4/25 | 7:00 PM Friday Night Social Ricobene's

252 W 26th Street Chicago, IL 60616

Fri - 5/02 | 7:00 PM Friday Night Social Gullivers Pizza & Pub

17W517 Roosevelt Rd Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181



The official results are in! The Chicago FM Club, operating under the club callsign WA9ORC, had another successful Winter Field Day event, showcasing our club's operating skills, teamwork, and dedication to emergency preparedness.

This year, CFMC participated in the Indoor Category, logging an impressive 301 QSOs throughout the event. With a Final Multiplier of 9 and an Objective Completion Rate of 45%, our team secured a strong final score. For additional information about CFMC's rankings, please visit the official Winter Field Day website at https://winterfieldday.org/results.php.

Official Stats for WA9ORC - WFD 2025

Callsign	Class	Location	Total QSO's	Final Mult	Objectives Completed
WA9ORC	3	IL	301	9	45%

Key Takeaways from WFD 2025

- Strong QSO Count: With over 300 confirmed QSOs, CFMC made an impressive impact during the event.
- Multipliers Matter: Achieving a Final Mult of 9 significantly boosted our overall score.
- Objective Strategy: While 45% of the possible objectives were completed, this leaves room for further improvements in future events.

Looking Ahead: CFMC Summer Field Day 2025

Did you miss out on the excitement of Winter Field Day 2025? No worries—CFMC is turning up the heat for Summer Field Day 2025! Join us for a full weekend of ham radio action at Camp Reinberg, where you'll connect, operate, and make unforgettable memories. Whether you're a seasoned operator or new to the hobby, this is your chance to dive into amateur radio like never before!

Dates:

June 28-29, 2025

Location:

Camp Reinberg, 1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine, IL 60074

Event Overview:

Summer Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, over 40,000 amateur radio operators across North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public locations to showcase the science, skill, and service of ham radio. The event highlights amateur radio's role in public service, emergency preparedness, and technical innovation, while also providing an opportunity for learning, camaraderie, and community engagement. -------

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 | N9SRY

Wednesday

220 Round Table - 7:30pmJim Fanning | KD9WNR

Night Watch - 10pm Kevin E Suddoth | KD9ZDR

Thursday

Night Watch - 10pm Craig O Talley | KD9UQE

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

	February Check-In Stats			
	Call	Name	Check-Ins	
I	N9UDN	Larry	27	
1	KC9KXG	Jim	27	
2	KD9ZDR	Kevin	25	
3	WI9HF	Chad	24	
3	W9BAZ	Mikey	24	
3	АА9КО	Tony	24	

Monthly Check-In Stats			
Month	Call Signs	Check-Ins	
Sept	99	609	
Oct	87	706	
Nov	95	504	
Dec	99	549	
Jan	85	501	
Feb	93	550	

RADIO of the MONTH

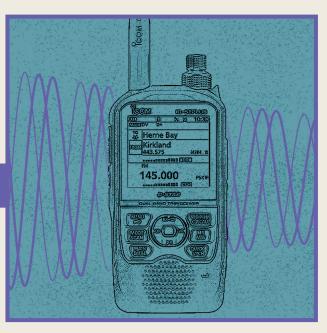
This month we're featuring the Icom ID-52A, a dual-band D-STAR handheld transceiver that combines cutting-edge digital communication with the reliability of traditional analog FM. The ID-52A stands out as an excellent option for both new and experienced operators looking to explore digital voice and data communication.

One of the ID-52A's most powerful features is its D-STAR connectivity. It allows operators to access D-STAR repeaters, link to reflectors for worldwide communication, and use direct simplex digital voice. Its built-in DR Mode

(D-STAR Repeater List) makes it easy to locate and connect to local and remote D-STAR repeaters without needing to manually enter frequencies and settings. Using a feature called Terminal Mode, operators can link to D-STAR reflectors via the internet using a smartphone, while Access Point Mode lets the radio act as a personal hotspot for other D-STAR radios. This flexibility makes the ID-52A an ideal choice for operators who want to stay connected wherever they go.

> Beyond its D-STAR capabilities, the ID-52A is packed with features

that make it an exceptional allaround handheld transceiver. It offers dual-band VHF/UHF operation on 144-148 MHz and 430-450 MHz, with dualcapability, watch allowing users to monitor both an FM analog repeater and a D-STAR reflector simultaneously. It also includes built-in GPS, a large, full-color display and



audio processing that ensures crisp and loud transmissions, even in noisy environments.

Designed for rugged outdoor use, the ID-52A is IPX7-rated waterproof, meaning it can be fully submerged in up to three feet of water for 30 minutes, making it a reliable option for field operations. Bluetooth connectivity further enhances usability, allowing for hands-free operation and remote control via the RS-MSIA smartphone app. With long battery life and an intuitive user interface, the ID-52A is well-suited for hams looking to operate on both digital and analog modes with ease.

Whether you're a newcomer to D-STAR or a seasoned user, the ID-52A provides all the tools needed to explore digital communication. If you're looking for a handheld transceiver that excels in both D-STAR and FM operation, the Icom ID-52A is a top-tier choice and a great way to dive into the world of digital amateur radio. ------

ID-52A

FREQUENCY COVERAGE

- RX: 88-174 MHz, 225-479 MHz
- TX: 144-148 MHz 430-450 MHz

OUTPUT POWER

- High 5 Watts
- Medium 2.5 Watts
- Low 0.5 Watts

Meeting Minutes

Chicago FM Club (CFMC) Meeting Minutes				
Date		Wednesday, February 26, 2025		
Location			16 th District, Chicago Po	olice Department
Meeting Called to Order		19:33		
	Officers Present		Board Members Present	
President Vice President Secretary Treasurer	Paul, N9JZY John, N9SRY Jim, KD9WNR Barry, N9FMB	Present Present Present Present	Bill, N9WRP Dave, KD9JHF Vern, K9VRT Bill, KD9TWA Doug, KD9YFR	Present Present Present Present Present

Member Introductions

- Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call of All Present
 - Total of 23 Members were present; Berk and Sami brought their young son and daughter, all toting GMRS radios, to learn about Ham.

Announcements

- Jim, KD9WNR announced
 - Membership Report
 - 51 Members Have Not Renewed (of 161)
 - 125 Members on the 2025 Roster
 - Final Membership Roster will be distributed in March
 - New CFMC Members Only Discord Server coming in April

Reading and Approval of Minutes

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 Kevin, KD9ZDR; The Minutes
were accepted by voice vote.

Treasurers Report

- Barry, N9FMB presented the Treasurers Report and announced that the Treasurers Report is available for review by any Voting Member.
- A motion was made to accept the Treasurers Report by Bill, N9WRP and seconded by Joe, K9CTA; The Treasurers Report was accepted by voice vote.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Reports

- VE Team:
 - o Vern, K9VRT
 - One new Technician
- Radio Expo:
 - o John, N9SRY
 - May need alternative source for Tables and Chairs
 - Need Volunteers
- Tech Committee:
 - o John, N9SRY
 - P25 is Working
 - · Analog has Priority
 - 2m Allstar is back up and running
 - 2M Echolink coming
- Website:
 - o Jim, KD9WNR
 - Nothing New
- Squelch Tale:
 - o Jeff, KD9RVJ
 - Not present
- Field Day:
 - Paul, N9JZY
 - Camp Reinberg
 - Setup and Friday Night Social, June 27th
 - June 28th and 29th
- Education
 - o Nate, N9BBM
 - Presentation on P25

Unfinished Business

 Mark, KB9TBZ asked about the order of the Silent Keys as listed in the Newsletter; He was referred to the Club Website

New Business

No New Business

Adjourn

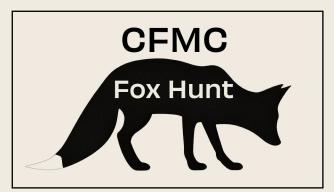
- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bill, N9WRP and seconded by Nate, N9BBM. The motion was passed by voice vote.
- The meeting was Adjourned at 20:00.

50/50

Dave, KD9CVI Dave ran the 50/50; Won by John, N9SRY who donated the winnings back to the club.

Post Meeting Presentation

P25 and Discord by Nate, N9BBM



CFMC 2M Fox Hunt

March 15, 2025

Fox:

Tony | AA9CC

Tony AA9CC was the fox. He sent the 5 teams to the south with a good signal. Many of the hunters took 355 south. The first to find Tony for the win was Tom N9CBA who took 355 to Roosevelt, Highland, 88 east to Midwest N to Butterfield E to 83 S past 75th and turn to Plainfield and in for the win. Tony was hiding at 41.789268,-87.942773 behind the Dollar Tree store. Three minutes later John WD9EXW team arrived for 2nd. Several minutes later Matt's KC9SEM team took 3rd. It took a while and Don W9RA found Tony for 4th and Pete's K9PW team ended the hunt. We met at Portillo's near Kingery Hwy and 72nd Ct.

Story by: Mike | WA9FTS

Fox Hunt Info

- -Ist 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 Ogden 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 708-983-9288

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.

Results:

- I. Tom | N9CBA
- 2. John | WD9EXW Mike | WA9FTS lanet
- 3. Matt | KC9SEM
 Patty | N9PLS
 Jacob | KD9VLF
 Mac | KD9VVU
- 4. Don | W9RA
- 5. Pete | K9PW Judy, Fin, Molly

Official Merch

Head over to our online club store to find everything you need to represent your club in style. Explore our collection featuring a customizable backpack for daily adventures or a name badge that proudly displays your club affiliation. -------





New Memeber Benefits 2025



The Membership Renewal period for 2025 has ended and the Roster has been updated. All Members were sent a hyperlink to the 2025 Membership Roster. This Roster (spreadsheet) will always be kept up date; You will always have access to the latest information

access to the latest information.

We are also excited to announce the launch of our Members Only Discord Server. Discord is a social communication platform. It's an Online Forum and Community, only better. A short video "Introduction to the CFMC Discord

Server", is available for viewing on our Website:

https://chicagofmclub.org/about/membership/

Members will be receiving an Invitation to join our Discord Server via Email. Your participation is optional. The hyperlink in the Invitation expires 7 Days after it is sent, so act fast. The Invitation Emails should go out soon after the Club Meeting, March 26th.

If you have not yet renewed your membership... There's still time! You have until March 31st to be reinstated. To re-join after March 31st, a fresh Membership Application is needed. -------

Jim Fanning | KD9WNR, Chicago FM Club Secretary



March Meeting

The March meeting will take place at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, March 26th, at the 16th District Chicago Police Department, located at 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60630. Attendance is open to everyone—you do not need to be a club member to join us.

This month, N9BBM will be giving a presentation on Ham Shack Hotline (HSH), a free VoIP service designed for amateur radio operators to facilitate quick and reliable communication. Whether you're looking to connect with fellow hams or integrate it into your shack setup, this is a great opportunity to learn more! ------

NWS Weather Spotter Training

The National Weather Service (NWS) is offering Skywarn Spotter Training sessions to equip volunteers with the skills to identify and report severe weather conditions. These free training sessions provide crucial knowledge on storm development, tornado spotting, and accurate reporting methods to help keep communities safe. Whether you're a ham radio operator, weather enthusiast, or just want to help, this training is a great way to contribute to public safety. Check out the schedule and register for a session at https://www.weather.gov/lot/spotter talk. -------



Swap and Shop

Due to increasing security concerns, the Swap and Shop section on the Chicago FM Club website has been suspended. Club members who have items to sell are encouraged to send a brief description and photos to WA9ORC@gmail.com for inclusion in the Squelch Tale. -------

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. As amateur radio operators, communication is our primary tool. Running a net is simply an extension of talking to friends on the air. ------

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: 131

rech ralk



D-STAR Digital Voice and Data Modes

Amateur radio has continually evolved with advancements in digital communication, and one of the most significant innovations in the past two decades has been D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio). Developed specifically for amateur radio, D-STAR enables digital voice and data transmission over VHF, UHF, and microwave bands, offering clearer audio, data messaging, and internet linking capabilities. This month, we take a deep dive into the history of D-STAR, its technological advancements, and the manufacturers that have embraced it.

The Origins of D-STAR

D-STAR was developed in the late 1990s by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) as part of a research project focused on advancing digital communication for amateur radio operators. Unlike commercial digital voice technologies, which were adapted for amateur use, D-STAR

was designed specifically for ham radio from the ground up. Its goal was to provide high-quality digital voice, data transmission, and repeater linking, while also allowing integration with the internet for worldwide connectivity.

In 2001, the first D-STAR protocol specifications were published, detailing how digital voice and data could be efficiently transmitted using narrowband 6.25 kHz channel spacing. This revolutionized amateur radio digital communication, making it more spectrum-efficient than traditional FM voice transmissions, which typically require 12.5 or 25 kHz channels.

How D-STAR Works

D-STAR operates using digital voice encoding (AMBE codec) and data transmission over VHF, UHF, and microwave bands. Unlike analog FM, which is subject to static, interference, and fading, D-STAR delivers clear, crisp audio even in weak signal conditions. Additionally, its integrated data channel allows operators to send text messages, GPS position reports, and even low-speed data files while simultaneously transmitting voice.

Tech Talk

One of D-STAR's most powerful features is network connectivity. Through the D-STAR Gateway system, repeaters can be linked across the internet, allowing operators to communicate globally. Users can select specific repeaters, link to reflectors, or directly call other D-STAR users using their unique callsign routing system.

Icom: The Pioneer and Leading Manufacturer

Icom was the first and remains the primary commercial manufacturer to develop D-STARcapable radios. The company worked closely with JARL in the early 2000s to bring D-STAR hardware to the amateur radio market. Some of Icom's most popular D-STAR radios include:

- Icom IC-9700 HF/VHF/UHF/I.2 GHz allmode transceiver with D-STAR.
- Icom ID-52A Advanced dual-band handheld with D-STAR and Bluetooth.
- **Icom IC-705** QRP portable radio with HF/VHF/UHF and built-in D-STAR support.
- Icom IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF mobile transceiver with touchscreen and D-STAR.

Icom also manufactures D-STAR repeaters, such as the ID-RP2C repeater controller and ID-RP4000V UHF digital repeater, which are used by clubs and organizations worldwide to expand D-STAR networks.

Kenwood: Expanding the D-STAR Ecosystem

Kenwood first introduced D-STAR-compatible radios in 2007 with the release of the TMW-706S and TMW-706, which were sold exclusively in Japan. However, Kenwood officially entered the D-STAR market in the United States in 2016 with the launch of the TH-D74, a feature-rich tri-band handheld that included D-STAR. The TH-D74 was well-received among operators looking for an alternative to Icom radios.

Kenwood has continued to develop D-STARcompatible models. Their latest TM-D75A mobile transceiver, released in 2025, brings enhanced

features and capabilities. Some Kenwood D-STAR Radios are:

- **Kenwood TH-D75A** Tri-band handheld (144/220/430 MHz) with D-STAR, APRS, Bluetooth, and GPS.
- Kenwood TMW-706S A dual-band (144/430 MHz) mobile transceiver with digital voice support and 50W output power.
- Kenwood TMW-706 Similar to the 706S, this mobile transceiver provides D-STAR functionality with up to 20W output power.
- Kenwood TM-D750A The newest D-STAR mobile, announced at HamCation 2025, featuring upgraded digital capabilities and tri-band operation.

Kenwood's continued commitment to D-STAR technology provide amateurs with reliable digital voice and data communication options, competing directly with other leading brands in the digital radio market.

Homebrew D-STAR Solutions

While Icom and Kenwood have been the primary manufacturers supporting D-STAR, enthusiasts and homebrew developers have expanded the ecosystem through open-source projects and software-based implementations. The DV Dongle, ThumbDV, and Pi-Star hotspot solutions allow operators to access D-STAR networks using a computer, Raspberry Pi, or custom-built transceivers, providing a low-cost alternative to purchasing a dedicated D-STAR radio.

The Future of D-STAR

As digital voice modes continue to evolve, D-STAR remains among the top contendors in amateur radio, thanks to its unique callsign routing system, emergency communication capabilities, and global linking features. While competing digital voice technologies like DMR, Fusion (C4FM), and P25 have gained popularity, D-STAR's simplicity, flexibility, and strong support from Icom and continued releases from Kenwood ensure its continued presence in the amateur radio world. ------

Chicago

FM Club

Club Officers

President	Paul Grist N9JZY
Vice President	John Cerza N9SRY
Secretary	Jim Fanning KD9WNR
Treasurer	

Board of Directors

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

Chairs

KD9MXV
N9SRY
N9JZY
WA9FTS
KD9WNR
KD9TWA
K9CTA
KD9RVJ
KB9AJM
KB9AJM
N9BBM

Club Contact

WA9ORC@gmail.com

Chicago FM Club PO Box 18013 Chicago, IL 60618-0013

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 | Wenskus | KA9CRV

Orson H. Baker | AB9WQ

James R. Liston | N9HSH

Patrick McPherson | WW9E

Marilyn Gardner | W9LUO

Thomas J. Dykas | NV9U

Andrew |. Galiardo | WD9GCN

Robert G. Felix | KF9TB

Jerry Aagard | N9IPH

Mitch Swedeh | WV9MJS

Joe Genovese | WA9KOD

Elton Caron | WA9AYQ

George Drish | WB9WIP

773-614-4733