

Squelch Tale



CHICAGO FM CLUB • EST 1965

VOLUME 61 | ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2026



President's Message

Rain, Rain, GO AWAY

Well, here we are already coming to the end of August. I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and, with all the rain we have seen around the Midwest lately, that everyone has managed to stay dry. It certainly has been an interesting summer weather-wise.

As we head toward September, one of the biggest things on our calendar is Radio Expo, and we could really use everyone's help to make this year's event a success.

First, we need volunteers. We will need people on Saturday to help with setup, and again on Sunday to work the gate, sell tickets to walk-up attendees, help wherever needed during the event, and stay around for teardown afterward. There is a lot that goes into putting Radio Expo together, and the more members who pitch in, the easier it is on everyone.

We would also really like to see members help sell Radio Expo tickets ahead of time. If you have friends, fellow hams, or anyone you think might enjoy coming out, please consider picking up some tickets and helping us get the word out. Radio Expo is an important fundraiser for the club, and every ticket we sell helps support CFMC and everything we do throughout the year.

We are also looking for door prize donations. If you have amateur radio gear or related equipment that you would be willing to donate, please consider bringing it in. Good gear makes for good door prizes, and it is another simple way members can help make Radio Expo a little more fun for everyone who attends.

We are very fortunate to have Ed Fong, WB6IQN, joining us via zoom at our next meeting to give a presentation on dual-band antennas. Ed is very well known throughout the amateur radio community for his antenna designs and his knowledge of RF and antenna theory. Many of you are probably already familiar with his DBJ antennas and his work that has appeared in QST.

Ed is a wealth of knowledge, and I think it is a real treat to have someone with his experience take the time to speak to our club. Whether you enjoy building antennas, experimenting with VHF and UHF, or simply want to learn a little more about how antennas really work, I think this is going to be a meeting everyone will enjoy.-----

Paul Gris | *N9JZY, Chicago FM Club President*

Upcoming CFMC Events

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

Fri - 8/21 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Millers Ale House
4474 N Harlem Ave
Norridge, IL 60706

Wed - 8/26 | 7:30pm
CFMC Monthly Meeting
16th District Police Station
5151 N Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60630

Fri - 8/28 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Ricobene's
252 W 26th Street
Chicago, IL 60616

Fri - 9/04 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Gullivers Pizza & Pub
17W517 Roosevelt Rd
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Fri - 9/11 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Portillo's
7308 W. Lawrence Ave.
Harwood Heights, IL 60706

Fri - 9/18 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub
3131 N Thatcher Ave
River Grove, IL 60171

Wed - 9/23 | 7:30pm
CFMC Monthly Meeting
16th District Police Station
5151 N Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60630

Fri - 9/25 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Ricobene's
252 W 26th Street
Chicago, IL 60616

CFMC Repeaters

70 cm Repeater

443.750 (+5 MHz), PL 114.8

EchoLink: 62478 or WA9ORC-R

AllStar: Node 555492

Regarded as the crown jewel of the Chicago area ham community, CFMC's 443.750 MHz repeater offers exceptional coverage spanning from Northwest Indiana to Southern Wisconsin — even reaching parts of Michigan. Connected to AllStar (Node 555492) and EchoLink (Node 62478 / WA9ORC-R), this system consistently delivers impressive long-range performance. It's also home to the long-running Night Watch Net, held nightly at 10:00pm, welcoming operators from near and far for friendly check-ins and conversation.-----

2-Meter Repeater

146.760 (-0.6 MHz), PL 107.2

EchoLink: 448319 or KD9YDD-R

AllStar: Node 555491

The club's flagship 2-meter repeater operates on 146.760 MHz with a PL tone of 107.2 and is available on both AllStar (Node 555491) and EchoLink (Node 448319 / KD9YDD-R). This robust Motorola GTR-800, known for its clarity and dependability, supports nets, public service events, and daily traffic, serving as a reliable meeting point for hams across the region. The 146.760 output frequency also serves as the CFMC emergency frequency should repeaters go offline.-----

WIRES-X (System Fusion)

145.350 (-0.6 MHz), DCS 072

Located in Park Ridge with an antenna elevation of 180 feet, the CFMC System Fusion repeater on 145.350 MHz supports both C4FM digital and analog operation (DCS 072 on the analog side). Integrated with the WIRES-X network, it allows operators to connect to hundreds of rooms and repeaters worldwide at the push of a button. Whether operating locally or checking into nets across the globe, this repeater offers flexibility and reach while remaining accessible to analog users.-----

220 MHz North

224.100 (-1.6 MHz), PL 110.9

AllStar: Node 555490

CFMC proudly supports the often-overlooked 1.25-meter band with two well-placed repeaters. The northern site, located in the suburbs and operating on 224.100 MHz, runs a 15-watt DX Radio repeater and is connected to AllStar Node 555490. Though modest in power, its performance and reach are impressive, offering solid coverage across northern Chicagoland. This repeater provides a quiet, low-traffic space for ragchews and exploring a less crowded portion of the amateur spectrum.-----

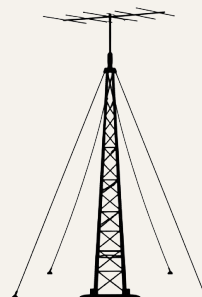
220 MHz South

224.180 (-1.6 MHz), PL 110.9

Strategically located in Worth, IL, the southern 220 repeater mirrors the performance of its northern counterpart. Operating on 224.180 MHz, it uses a DX Radio 15-watt single-site repeater. This system extends CFMC's reach into the southern suburbs and offers hams another opportunity to explore the 220 MHz band — an excellent option for clear, local communications with minimal QRM.-----

All licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to use the CFMC Repeaters for normal station-to-station calls. If you enjoy using them and like the people you hear, consider joining our club.

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 for those who use the repeaters often.-----



The Night Watch**443.750 - Every Night at 10:00pm**

CFMC's most attended net offers a great mix of camaraderie, conversation, and community. Come for the knowledge, stay for the fun each and every night of the week!-----

Monday "Drive at Five"**443.750 - Monday at 5:00pm**

Do you have a case of the Mondays? Kick off your week with the Drive at Five! This relaxed, mobile-friendly net is perfect for your commute or your shack.-----

Tuesday 2-Meter Info Net**146.760 - Tuesdays at 9:00pm**

The 2-Meter Info Net is a casual, ragchew-style net where members and guests can hear the latest updates about club events, activities, and announcements.-----

Wednesday 220 Round Table**224.100 - Wed at 8:00pm** *(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.-----

Thursday 2-Meter Tech Net**146.760 - Thursdays at 8:30pm**

Got a question about radios, antennas, software, or anything ham-related? The Thursday 2-Meter Tech Net is your place to learn and share. Bring your questions and join the discussion. No question is too small, and everyone is welcome!-----

Sunday**Night Watch - 10pm***Kevin E Suddoth* | KD9ZDR**Monday****"Drive at Five" - 5pm***Kevin E Suddoth* | KD9ZDR**Night Watch - 10pm***Paul Gris* | N9JZY**Tuesday****2-Meter Info Net - 9pm***Tom Stobble* | KB9AJM*Alan Moyzis* | KC9IMF**Night Watch - 10pm***John Cerza* | N9SRV**Wednesday****220 Round Table - 8:00pm***Eddie Harris* | KD9LQR**Night Watch - 10pm***Bill Deans* | KD9TWA**Thursday****2-Meter Tech Net - 8:30pm***Nate Russell* | W9SDI**Night Watch - 10pm***Joshua Hamlett* | KD9MXV**Friday****Night Watch - 10pm***Marc Holland* | AA9HM**Saturday****Night Watch - 10pm***Naeem Ahmed* | N9DDD**Night Watch July Check-In Stats**

	Call	Name	Check-Ins
1	KC9KXG	Jim	27
2	W9BAZ	Mikey	26
3	N9SRV	John	25
4	KD9ZDR	Kevin	24
5	WX9LAR	Larry	23
6	KC9IMF	Alan	19
7	N9JZY	Paul	18

Night Watch Monthly Check-In Stats

Month	Call Signs	Check-Ins
Jan	91	489
Feb	75	457
March	84	528
April	84	518
May	110	529
June	98	534
July	88	478

RADIO of the MONTH

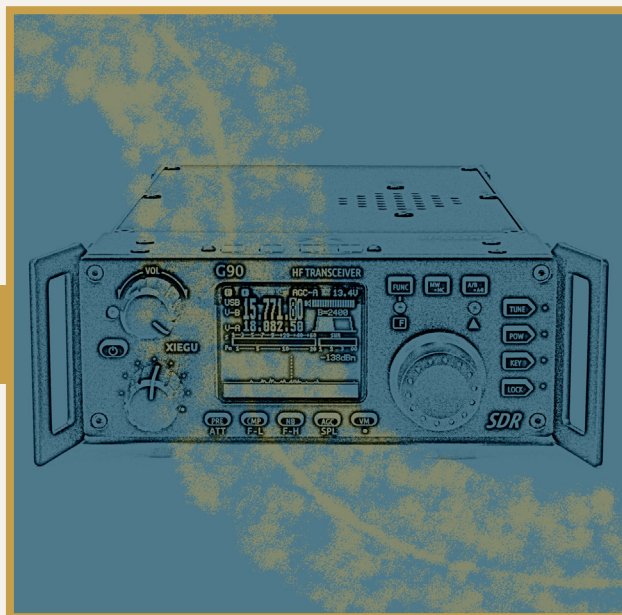
Xiegu G90

This month's Radio of the Month is the Xiegu G90, a compact 20-watt HF transceiver that packs an impressive amount of capability into a relatively small package. Covering the amateur bands from 160 through 10 meters, the G90 uses an SDR architecture and includes a color spectrum display and waterfall, giving operators a visual look at activity across the band.

What really sets the G90 apart is its built-in automatic antenna tuner. Its wide matching range makes it especially attractive for portable operating, where antennas are not always perfectly resonant. Combined with its compact size and modest power requirements, the G90 has become an appealing choice for POTA, camping and other portable HF operations. The detachable control head also provides some flexibility for mobile or space-constrained installations.

With a maximum output of 20 watts, the G90 occupies an interesting space between traditional QRP radios and full-size 100-watt transceivers. Turn the power down and the G90 becomes a great platform for discovering just how far a modest signal can travel when propagation is on your side.

The G90 is also a useful reminder that successful HF operation is about much more than transmitter power. Antenna efficiency, band conditions, time of day and operating mode can often make the difference between being unheard and being copied hundreds or thousands of miles away. Twenty watts may seem modest compared with the typical 100-watt station, but under favorable conditions it is more than enough to make impressive contacts.



Another strength is the G90's flexibility in the field. Its compact size, detachable control head and built-in tuner make it easy to pair with a simple wire antenna and portable battery.

Digital modes such as FT8 and WSPR are also possible, although the G90 does not offer the same simple single-USB-cable experience found on many newer radios. Xiegu offers compatible digital-mode interfaces, and the radio provides CAT control and connections necessary for computer operation. Once configured, its adjustable output makes it particularly interesting for weak-signal experimentation.

For the operator interested in portable HF, experimenting with lower power, or simply seeing how much can be accomplished without relying on 100 watts, the G90 remains an intriguing little radio..-----

Jeff Wuerth | *KD9RVJ, Squelch Tale Editor*

G90

- **Transmit:** 160–10 meters
- **Receive:** Approximately 0.5–30 MHz
- **Modes:** SSB, CW, AM, NFM
- Output Power:** 1–20 watts
- **Antenna Tuner:** Built-in wide-range
- **Memory Channels:** yes

Meeting Minutes

Chicago FM Club (CFMC) Meeting Minutes				
Date			Wednesday, July 22, 2026	
Location			16 th District, Chicago Police Department	
Meeting Called to Order			19:40	
Officers Present			Board Members Present	
President	Paul, N9JZY	Present	Doug, KD9YFR	Present
Vice President	John, N9SRY	Present	Paul, N9ISP	Present
Secretary	Jim, KD9WNR	Present	Kevin, KD9ZDR	Present
Treasurer	Barry, K9FMB	Present	Alan, KC9IMF	Present
			Charlie, W9CEF	Not Present
			Joshua, KD9MXV (Trustee)	Present
Member Introductions - Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance - Roll Call of All Present - Total of 24 Members were present; 1 Guest				
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, KD9TWA and seconded by Paul, N9ISP; The Minutes were accepted by voice vote.				
Treasurers Report - Barry, K9FMB 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 Joe, K9CTA and seconded by Doug, KD9YFR; The Treasurers Report was accepted by voice vote.				
Committee Reports - Membership Report – Jim, KD9WNR 6 new Members: - James, KD9UJK - Ray, KE9FXJ* - Dave, KE9FXI* - Ethan, KE9FRY - Andy, KE9FYV* - Cody, KE9FYW * New Hams Tested with CFMC (3) 160 Total CFMC Members 70 on Discord - VE Team Report – Bill, KD9TWA 3 Candidates on Field Day all Passed 3 Candidates, 2 Techs, one Extra - Tech Committee – John, N9SRY 2m Antenna needs attention; Noisy when windy? - Remote Power Switch in-progress - New 2m repeater is working fine - Net Coordinator – Kevin, KD9ZDR - Need Net Controllers Needed; Club Members Please Step-Up - Monday Drive at Five - Wednesday 220 Roundtable - Tuesday Tech Net - Website and Social Media – Jim, KD9WNR - Posted: https://chicagofmclub.org/chicago-marathon-october-2026/ - Maintenance Updates Only - Squelch Tale – Jeff, KD9RVJ (not present)				

- Field Day (seasonal) – Bill, KD9TWA
 - Field Day Was a Big Success
 - Over 50 Hams plus Family and Friends
 - CFMC using W9C scored 1700 Points Total
 - First Place - Tim = ARRL 2026 FD Pin
 - Second Place - Doug won Second Patch
 - Third Place - Kevin won Sticker
 - Thanks to Paul, N9ISP, Alan, KC9IMF, and Nate, W9SDI for donating the proteins for the CMFC Picnic on Saturday
- Radio Expo – John, N9SRY
 - Tickets On Sale advance tickets \$10 with four prize stubs
 - \$12 at the gate
 - **Need Help Saturday for Setup and Sunday for Tear Down**
 - Need help on Sunday to Manage the Gate and sell tickets
 - Paul, N9JZY asked for donations for Door-Prizes from Member contacts
 - Members encouraged to Sell Tickets; See John, N9SRY
- POTA @ Pullman – Kevin, KD9ZDR
 - July 25th and 26th
 - Members encouraged to participate
- Education – Charlie, W9CEF (not present)
 - Presentation on “Soldering Basics” by Jim, KD9WNR

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- 16th District – National Night Out
 - Tuesday, August 4th ; 5pm to 8:30pm
<https://chicagofmclub.org/16th-district-cpd-national-night-out-2026/>
Norwood Park
5801 N Natoma
Chicago, Il
 - Members participating in the Car Show
 - Paul, N9JZY
 - Paul, N9ISP
 - Greg, K9OY
 - We will be setting up a CFMC table with Radios,

Adjourn

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Joshua, KD9MXV and seconded by Lou, KS9CPD. The motion was passed by voice vote.
- The meeting was Adjourned at 20:34

50/50

- Tim, WD9DZV ran the 50/50; Won by Eddie, KD9LQR

Post Meeting Presentation

- Soldering for Electronics – Soldering Basics
<https://chicagofmclub.org/club-resources/education/>



CFMC EDUCATION



Dual Band Antenna Talk

Our guest speaker for the August meeting will be Ed Fong (WB6IQN) via Zoom. As many of you know, he is the inventor of the DBJ-1, DBJ-2 and TBJ-1 antennas that have been featured in QST. The DBJ-1 is a highly effective dual band VHF/UHF base station antenna and the DBJ-2 is the portable roll up version. The DBJ-2 won the QST Plaque of the Month Award. Both of these antennas are featured in the ARRL VHF antenna Handbook and also in the ARRL Antenna Classic Handbook. There are over 40,000 of these antennas in use today. About half are used by hams and the other half by government and commercial agencies.

Ed will give a history on how these antennas were developed and the theory on how and why they work so well. There is no “black magic” to antennas. He will explain in a non-mathematical manner to convince you for overall performance and simplicity his approach is one of the most practical. Ed will also be donating some of his antennas to the hamefest.

Biography:

Ed Fong was first licensed in 1968 as WN6IQN. He later upgraded to Extra Class (when 20 WPM was required) with his present call of WB6IQN. He obtained the BSEE and MSEE degrees from the Univ. of California at Berkeley and his Ph.D. from the Univ. of San Francisco.

A Life Senior Member of the IEEE, he has 13 patents and over 50 published papers and books in the area of communications and integrated circuit design.

Presently, he is employed by the University of California, Santa Cruz as an instructor teaching graduate classes in Antenna Design, RF design and high speed interface.



Parks on the Air

Amateur Radio Comes to Life at Pullman

CFMC had a great weekend at Pullman National Historical Park, collaborating with STARS to combine a Parks on the Air activation with hands-on demonstrations, public outreach, and a look back at the important role telegraphy played in railroad history.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a collaboration with another local amateur radio club to demonstrate how telegrams were sent and received in the early railroad

era. Two straight-key stations were set up so visitors could try Morse code for themselves, and over the course of the two-day event, 47 telegrams were processed.

The demonstrations sparked a tremendous amount of interest. Visitors stopped to ask questions about amateur radio, VE testing, and how to earn a license. Many also shared personal stories about family members who had worked as military code operators or railroad telegraphers. One visitor even recalled her own experiences with the Signal Corps during the 1980s.

Younger visitors were especially enthusiastic. Eight children tried their hand at a straight key, learning to spell their names in Morse code, and one 10-year-old even sent himself a telegram.



Parks on the Air

The event was also a great opportunity for newer operators to gain experience. One of CFMC's newest members, who is just beginning to learn CW, spent time helping with the demonstrations and quickly became more comfortable sending and receiving code while assisting visitors.

At times, interest around the telegraph tables was so strong that there was something of a pileup, particularly later Saturday and throughout much of Sunday.

The weekend provided plenty of opportunities to talk about amateur radio

as well. Organizers spoke with roughly 100 visitors about getting licensed, along with a number of attendees who were already amateur radio operators. Among those stopping by were truck drivers, railroad engineers, and others who already had connections to the hobby.

Meanwhile, CFMC operators also kept busy with the weekend's Parks on the Air activation, with especially strong participation on Saturday. Several stations were on hand covering HF, VHF, and UHF, giving visitors another chance to see amateur radio in action.



Parks on the Air

More than anything, the Pullman weekend showed how well amateur radio can connect history, education, public service, and hands-on experimentation. Visitors were able to do much more than simply look at radios—they could send Morse code, receive a telegram, talk with active operators, and

learn how to become part of the hobby themselves.

By all accounts, it was an excellent weekend and a great example of CFMC outreach in the community.-----

Kevin Suddoth | *KD9ZDR, Net Manager*



August Meeting

The Chicago FM Club's August meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:30 PM at the Chicago Police Department's 16th District Station, 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago.

As always, members, guests, and anyone interested in amateur radio are welcome to attend. Come out, catch up with fellow club members, hear the latest club news, and enjoy another evening of amateur radio!-----

Presenters Wanted!

We're looking for presenters and topics for upcoming Chicago FM Club education programs. Presentations don't need to be overly technical or formal. If there's an aspect of amateur radio you enjoy, a project you've worked on, something you've experimented with, or simply a topic you think other members would find interesting, we'd love to hear about it.

Topics could include antennas, POTA/SOTA, digital modes, contesting, satellites, APRS, emergency communications, operating techniques, equipment, propagation, building projects, logging, QSLing—or just about anything else related to amateur radio.

You don't have to be an expert—you just need something you're excited to share.

And if you don't want to present but have an idea, question, or subject you'd like to see covered, send that along too. We can work on finding someone to present it.

Interested in presenting or have a topic idea? Reach out to me at charlie@askchucky.com or through the club's Discord server.-----

Buy Expo Tickets TODAY!

Support CFMC—get your Radio Expo tickets! Radio Expo 2026 is coming up Sunday, September 27 at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Belvidere, and this important annual fundraiser helps support our repeaters, programs, operating events, and other club activities throughout the year.

Advance tickets are just \$10 (\$12 at the gate) and will be available for purchase at our August 26 meeting. Pick yours up at the meeting and help support the club!-----

Radio Operators Needed for the Chicago Marathon

The 2026 Bank of America Chicago Marathon takes place Sunday, October 11, and amateur radio operators are once again needed to help support this world-class event.

The radio volunteer roster is filling up, so interested CFMC members are encouraged to sign up soon!-----

CFMC on the Web



Check out our website

<https://www.chicagofmclub.org/>



Chat with us on Discord



Connect with us on Groups.io

<https://groups.io/g/CFMC/>



Join us on Facebook



Follow us on X

https://x.com/CFMC_WA9ORC

Tech Talk



WSPR: Using Your Station as a Propagation Beacon

What if you could leave your station quietly transmitting in the background and come back later to discover exactly where your signal was heard—sometimes thousands of miles away?

That is the idea behind WSPR, pronounced “whisper.”

WSPR stands for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. Rather than being designed primarily for making contacts, WSPR was created specifically for probing radio

propagation using extremely low-power transmissions. A WSPR transmission normally contains only three basic pieces of information: your callsign, your Maidenhead grid locator, and your transmitter power.

It may not sound like much, but when hundreds or thousands of stations around the world are listening and reporting what they hear, those tiny transmissions can tell us a remarkable amount about how radio signals are traveling.

A Beacon You Can Barely Hear

One of the most interesting things about WSPR is just how weak a signal can be and still be decoded.

A standard WSPR transmission lasts approximately two minutes and uses an extremely narrow 4-FSK signal only about 6 Hz wide. The mode’s powerful signal processing allows WSJT-X to decode WSPR signals down around -31 dB signal-to-noise ratio in a 2,500 Hz reference bandwidth—far below what you would normally be able to hear by ear.

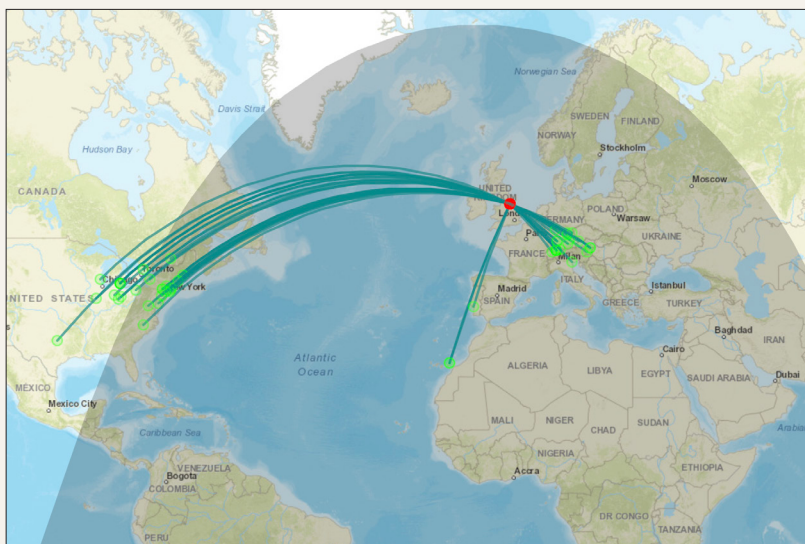
That sensitivity means you do not need much transmitter power.

While many of us are accustomed to thinking in terms of 100-watt HF stations, WSPR operators routinely experiment with only a few watts. Go farther down the rabbit hole and you will find stations transmitting with hundreds of milliwatts—or even less.

That is where WSPR becomes fun.

Instead of asking, “Can I work anyone?” the question becomes:

“Where can my signal go?”



Your Station Becomes the Experiment

Suppose you put your station on 20 meters, reduce your transmitter to 5 watts, enable WSPR and let it operate for an hour.

During that time, your station periodically transmits its callsign, location and power level. Receiving WSPR stations decode those transmissions and can upload reports, or spots, to the WSPR network.

Those reports can include who heard you, when they heard you, the frequency, received signal strength, their location and the distance between the two stations. WSPRnet provides both mapping and searchable spot data for this purpose.

Suddenly you have something far more useful than simply knowing that your transmitter works.

You have data.

Perhaps stations 500 miles away are hearing you all afternoon, but suddenly your signal starts appearing in Europe around sunset. Maybe 10 meters seems completely dead, yet a WSPR receiver halfway across the country is consistently decoding your signal. Or perhaps you discover that your modest antenna is being heard much farther away than you ever expected.

Leave the station running at different times of day and patterns begin to emerge.

What Can WSPR Tell You?

This is where WSPR becomes much more than an automated beacon.

You can use it to investigate propagation.

Try several bands throughout the day and watch them open and close. Compare daytime and nighttime propagation. Watch what

WSPR at a Glance

- **WSPR: Weak Signal Propagation Reporter**
- **Pronounced: “Whisper”**
- **Purpose: Exploring radio propagation with low-power signals**
- **Typical transmission: Callsign, grid locator and transmitter power**
- **Transmission length: Approximately two minutes**
- **Modulation: 4-FSK**
- **Signal bandwidth: About 6 Hz**
- **Weak-signal capability: Approximately -31 dB S/N in a 2,500 Hz reference bandwidth**
- **Popular software: WSJT-X**
- **Results: Receiving stations can report decoded signals to WSPRnet**

happens around sunrise and sunset. Experiment during changing solar conditions. You may even discover openings on bands that sound completely quiet when you listen to them.

You can also experiment with power.

If you are being heard consistently at 5 watts, try 2 watts. Then 1 watt. Then 500 milliwatts. See how far you can reduce your power before particular paths disappear.

And WSPR can be an interesting tool for comparing antennas.

Run one antenna under similar conditions, record your results, then try another. Instead

Tech Talk

of relying entirely on an on-air signal report from one station, you may have reports from receivers scattered across an entire continent.

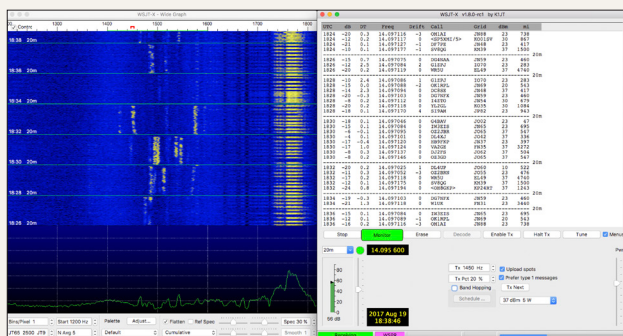
There are plenty of variables involved, of course. Propagation is constantly changing, receiving stations use different antennas and noise levels vary enormously. A handful of WSPR spots therefore should not be treated like a laboratory-grade antenna comparison.

But over enough time and enough reports, WSPR can reveal patterns that would otherwise be difficult to see.

Getting on WSPR

For many operators, getting started does not require any unusual hardware.

If your HF station is already configured to use digital modes such as FT8 with WSJT-X, much of what you need may already be sitting on your desk. WSJT-X includes WSPR alongside its other weak-signal modes and supports transmitting, receiving and reporting WSPR activity.



Select WSPR, choose the appropriate band, configure your station information and begin by listening.

WSPR activity takes place on established frequencies on many amateur bands. For example, WSPRnet currently lists USB dial frequencies of 7.0386 MHz on 40 meters, 10.1387 MHz on 30 meters, 14.0956 MHz on 20 meters and 28.1246 MHz on 10 meters, among many others.

Once you are comfortable receiving, transmitting can be enabled with a selected percentage of the available two-minute transmission periods. Because WSPR is intended for weak-signal experimentation, start low. There is usually very little reason to send a WSPR signal with the same power you might use for an ordinary HF contact.

Then let the station run.

After a while, look up your callsign and see what happened.

You Might Be Surprised

There is something uniquely satisfying about transmitting a signal at a power level that seems almost ridiculously small and then discovering that someone thousands of miles away heard it.

And unlike chasing a particular DX station, WSPR allows the ionosphere to provide the surprise.

Maybe your 20-meter signal reaches Europe. Maybe 10 meters unexpectedly opens across the Pacific. Maybe a signal transmitted with less power than many handheld radios use locally manages to cross an ocean.

That is the real appeal of WSPR.

It turns your radio, computer and antenna into a personal propagation beacon, allowing you to watch the invisible paths our signals travel every day.

So the next time the bands sound dead, do not assume nothing is happening.

Send out a whisper.

You might be surprised who hears it.-----

Jeff Wuerth | KD9RVJ, *Squelch Tale* Editor

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

Doug Harland | KD9YFR
Paul Abernathy | N9ISP
Kevin E. Suddoth | KD9ZDR
Alan Moyzis | KC9IMF
Charlie Ferreira | W9CEF

Chairs

Repeater Trustee.....*Joshua Hamlett* | KD9MXV
VE Testing.....*Bill Deans* | KD9TWA
Radio Expo.....*John Cerza* | N9SRY
Field Day.....*Paul Gris* | N9JZY
Website Administrator.....*Jim Fanning* | KD9WNR
Website Editor.....*Bill Deans* | KD9TWA
Refreshments.....*Joe Degrazia* | K9CTA
Newsletter.....*Jeff Wuerth* | KD9RVJ
Announcements.....*Kevin E Suddoth* | KD9ZDR
Net Manager..... *Kevin E Suddoth* | KD9ZDR
Education Coordinator..... *Charlie Ferreira* | W9CEF

Silent Keys

Tom Gotski | KD9YOV
Jeffrey Kohn | KC9TEW
Alvin Monroe | KD9TPL
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 Schweda | WV9MJS
Joe Genovese | WA9KOD
Elton Caron | WA9AYQ
George Drish | WB9WIP

Club Contact

WA9ORC@gmail.com

Chicago FM Club
PO Box 56774
Chicago, IL 60656-0774

773-614-4733