Squelch Tale

CHICAGO FM CLUB • EST 1965

VOLUME 61 | ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2026



President's Message

Celebrating Radio Expo and Looking Ahead

With Radio Expo now behind us, I want to begin by offering a tremendous thank-you to everyone who helped make this year's event a success. Radio Expo is one of the biggest undertakings of the year for the Chicago FM Club, and it takes a great deal of planning, preparation, and volunteer effort to bring it all together.

Thank you to our Radio Expo committee and everyone who gave their time before, during, and after the event. From organizing vendors and handling tickets to setting up, helping attendees, and cleaning up when it was over, every contribution mattered. We should all be proud of what we accomplished.

Getting Ready for Colder Weather

Fall is here, and colder weather will be arriving before we know it. If you have been putting off antenna repairs, feed-line maintenance, or other outdoor station projects, now is a good time to make a plan.

For anyone whose antenna work requires getting onto a roof, please take advantage of suitable weather while we still have it. Shorter days, cold temperatures, snow, and ice can make a manageable project much more difficult. Check your connections, weatherproofing, and antenna supports before winter gives them a workout.

Winter Field Day Is Coming

With Radio Expo in the books, we can begin looking forward to Winter Field Day. Believe it or not, it is only three club meetings away. That may sound like plenty of time, but the holidays have a way of making the calendar move quickly.

Winter Field Day gives us another opportunity to operate together, practice setting up stations, and learn how our equipment—and our preparations—hold up in colder conditions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our October meeting on Wednesday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the 16th District Police Station. Thank you again for everything you do to support CFMC.

Paul Gris | *N9JZY, Chicago FM Club President*

Upcoming CFMC Events

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

Fri - 10/23 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Russell's Barbecue
1621 N Thatcher Ave
Elmwood Park, IL 60707

Wed - 10/28 | 7:30pm
CFMC Monthly Meeting
16th District Police Station
5151 N Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60630

Fri - 10/30 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Ricobene's
252 W 26th St.
Chicago, IL 60616

Fri - 11/06 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Gullivers Pizza & Pub
17W517 Roosevelt Rd
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Fri - 11/13 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Portillo's
7308 W. Lawrence Ave.
Harwood Heights, IL 60706

Wed - 11/18 | 7:30pm
CFMC Monthly Meeting
16th District Police Station
5151 N Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60630

Fri - 11/20 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub
3131 N Thatcher Ave
River Grove, IL 60171

Fri - 11/27 | 7:00pm
Friday Night Social
Ricobene's
252 W 26th St.
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

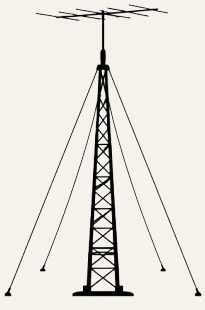
CFMC proudly supports the often-overlooked 1.25-meter band with two well-placed repeaters. The northern site, located in the suburbs and operating on 224.100 MHz, runs a 15-watt DX Radio repeater and is connected to AllStar Node 555490. Though modest in power, its performance and reach are impressive, 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.



CFMC NETS

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 8:00pm

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 8:00pm

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!--·····--

NET CONTROL

Sunday

Night Watch - *10:00pm*
Kevin E Suddoth | KD9ZDR

Monday

"Drive at Five" - *5:00pm*
Kevin E Suddoth | KD9ZDR
Night Watch - *10:00pm*
Paul Gris | N9JZY

Tuesday

2-Meter Info Net - *8:00pm*
Alan Moyzis | KC9IMF
Night Watch - *10:00pm*
John Cerza | N9SRY

Wednesday

220 Round Table - *8:00pm*
Eddie Harris | KD9LQR
Night Watch - *10pm*
Bill Deans | KD9TWA

Thursday

2-Meter Tech Net - *8:00pm*
Eddie Harris | KD9LQR
Night Watch - *10:00pm*
Joshua Hamlett | KD9MXV

Friday

Night Watch - *10:00pm*
Marc Holland | AA9HM

Saturday

Night Watch - *10:00pm*
Naeem Ahmed | N9DDD

Night Watch September Check-In Stats			
	Call	Name	Check-Ins
1	W9BAZ	Mikey	26
1	KC9KXG	Jim	26
3	WX9LAR	Larry	25
3	KD9ZDR	Kevin	25
5	N9SRY	John	24
6	AA9HM	Marc	21
7	KD9TWA	Bill	19

Night Watch Monthly Check-In Stats		
Month	Call Signs	Check-Ins
March	84	528
April	84	518
May	110	529
June	98	534
July	88	478
Aug	88	471
Sept	87	451

RADIO of the MONTH

Icom IC-7100



This month's Radio of the Month is the Icom IC-7100, a multiband, multimode transceiver that combines HF, 6 meters, 2 meters and 70 centimeters in one compact package.

The IC-7100 delivers up to 100 watts on HF and 6 meters, 50 watts on 2 meters and 35 watts on 70 centimeters, depending on mode. It supports SSB, CW, AM, FM and D-STAR digital voice, giving operators options ranging from HF contacts to local repeaters and weak-signal VHF/UHF activity.

One of its most recognizable features is the separate, angled control head. Its touchscreen provides access to operating settings, while physical knobs and buttons handle frequently used functions. The main radio unit can be installed separately, allowing operators to keep the controls within reach when desk space or mounting options are limited.

For computer-based digital operation, the IC-7100's USB connection is particularly useful. It carries transmit and receive audio along with computer control, allowing a compatible station to operate without a separate external sound-card interface. Proper drivers, audio selections and radio settings are still required, but the arrangement reduces cabling and extra equipment.

Paired with Fldigi, the IC-7100 can support Olivia keyboard conversations and other sound-card digital modes. The computer encodes outgoing text into audio tones and decodes incoming signals, while the transceiver supplies the radio link. Olivia is handled by the software rather than decoded internally by the radio.

That combination offers a practical route into written communications. An operator can use the same station for everyday voice contacts and digital message exchanges, building familiarity with both. Its coverage also provides flexibility when planning local and longer-distance communications, provided suitable antennas and cooperating stations are available.

The IC-7100 still requires an external power source, and a digital station must also power its computer. As with any transceiver, extended digital transmissions call for appropriate power settings and attention to cooling.

For operators interested in a compact radio that bridges voice, digital messaging and multiple amateur bands, the IC-7100 offers a versatile platform for both everyday operating and communications practice.

Jeff Wuerth | *KD9RVJ, Squelch Tale Editor*

IC-7100

- **Transmit:** HF/6m/2m/70cm
- **Modes:** SSB, CW, RTTY, AM, FM and D-STAR DV
- **Power:** 100 W HF/6 m; 50 W 2 m; 35 W 70 cm
- **Antenna Tuner:** External Optional

Meeting Minutes

Chicago FM Club (CFMC) Meeting Minutes				
Date			**Wednesday, September 23, 2026**	
Location			**16th District, Chicago Police Department**	
Meeting Called to Order			**19:32**	
Officers Present			**Board Members Present**	
President Vice President Secretary Treasurer	Paul, N9JZY John, N9SRY Jim, KD9WNR Barry, K9FMB	Present Present Present Present	Doug, KD9YFR Paul, N9ISP Kevin, KD9ZDR Alan, KC9IMF Charlie, W9CEF Joshua, KD9MXV (Trustee)	Present Present Present Present Present Present

Member Introductions

- Recitation of Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call of All Present
  - Total of 29 Members were present

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 Joe, KC9EJS and seconded by Bill, KD9TWA; 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 Gregory, K9OY; The Treasurers Report was accepted by voice vote.

Committee Reports

- Membership Report – Jim, KD9WNR
  - New Members
    - KD9ZAK, Clay
    - KE8KWO, Brandon
    - KE9GEJ, Calvin (Student)
    - KE9FQF, Curt
    - KD9WJY, Tim
    - N9ER, Leo
  - 168 Members Total
  - 70 on Discord
- VE Team Report – Bill, KD9TWA
  - One New Tech in September
- Tech Committee – John, N9SRY
  - No Roof Access at main Repeater Site until Insurance issue is resolved
  - DSL Internet on Fusion Repeater in Park Ridge is discontinued.
    - Wireless 5G Hotspot to be installed
- Net Coordinator – Kevin, KD9ZDR
  - All Good - All Nets covered
  - Pat, K9XOK will be taking Thursday Night Watch
  - Thanks to all Net Controllers
- Website and Social Media – Jim, KD9WNR
  - Officer Candidate Registration Form
- Squelch Tale – Jeff, KD9RVJ
  - We had a few mailings not get through due to a message rejection. This is likely due to spam filters attempting to prevent spam. The messages were re-sent later and appear to have been successful.
  - Please keep an eye on the upcoming officer election information.

- Radio Expo – John, N9SRY
  - Need Help Saturday morning @7:00 AM for Setup
  - During the Expo starting at 5:30 AM for the Gate
  - Tear-Down Sunday Evening Alan
    - KC9IMF will be overnight Security
- Winter Field Day – Bill, KD9TWA
  - January 23rd & 24th, 2027
  - Camp Reinberg
  - Call Sign will be W9C
- Education – Charlie, W9CEF
  - Cloe, W2CXE will give a presentation on MRI Machines
  - No presentations for December
  - Need Presenters for January and February

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Motion was made by Gregory, K9OY and seconded by Scott, KD9YDD to spend $225 to Sponsor a Tree at Brookfield Zoo Holiday Magic. Deferred for decision by the CFMC Board.
- 2027-28 Officers Election
  - Current CFMC Officers Terms end December 31st. Nomination and registration of Candidates for the 2027-28 term will begin after **the October General Meeting*.
    - Email notices will be sent to all members after **the October General Meeting*.
  - CFMC Members wishing to run for elected office must register their candidacy on our website.
  - The Candidate Registration period will end at the close of the **November* General Meeting.
  - The election will be by electronic ballot, sent via email to all members just after the **November* General Meeting.
  - Winners will be announced at the **December* General Meeting.
  - Motion by Jim, KD9WNR to approve $36 expense for ElectionRunner Fees. The motion was seconded by Alan, KC9IMF and passed by voice vote.

** The timing of the Registration and Election periods announced at the meeting were incorrect. The corrections are shown in Italics above.*

Adjourn

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Joe, KC9EJS and seconded by Kevin, KD9ZDR. The motion was passed by voice vote.
- The meeting was Adjourned at 20:50

50/50

- Tim, WD9DZV ran the 50/50; Won by Jim, KC9KXG; Jim donated $35 back to the Club.

Post Meeting Presentation

- Cloe, W2CXE gave a presentation on MRI Machines

RADIO EXPO 2026!

Radio Expo 2026 is in the books. Another hamfest put on by the CFMC membership went off without an issue. This year was as well attended as last year. Food was excellent and attendance spectacular. Some people said it was the best hamfest in the last few years. All that being said, let's put the credit where it belongs. The CFMC members/ helpers made this year's event one to remember. Also like to thank all of our returning vendors. Tables and chairs again this year were set up and taken down in record time. Profits from the hamfest will make it easy to take care of the bills for the year. Below is a list of helpers I personally want to thank for their help in making Radio Expo 2026 a huge success.

Thank You

John Cerza | *N9SRY, Radio Expo Chairman*

THANK YOU CFMC MEMBERS

W9CEF-CHARLIE	AA9HM-MARC	KC9SKC-RICH
K9TAY-TAYLOR	N9DDD-NAEEM	KE9FZM-TOM
W9SDI-NATE	K9OY-GREG	KD9TWA-BILL
N9JZY-PAUL	KD6KHK-TOM	KC9IMF-ALAN
KD9WNR-JIM	KD9ZDR-KEVIN	N9WRP-BILL
N9SRY-JOHN	KC9EJS-JOE	KD9DJB-ANDY
KD9YDD-SCOTT	KC9KXG-JIM	KD9YFR-DOUG
N9ISP-PAUL	KD9LQR-EDDIE	KD9VSC-ALLIE
WD9DZV-TIM	KC9MSG-BRIAN	K9MKZ-JERRY










ACTIVE ANTENNA
FRA-7700
2040 CB SIGNAL GENERATOR


VE
TESTING
TODAY
Technician
General
Amateur Extra
Register online at
https://ham.study/sessions


Trans-Oceanic
BANDS - LONGWAVE, AM BROADCAST, FM BROADCAST, WEATHER BAND, 1.6 TO 3.5 MHZ, 3.5 TO 9.0 MHZ, 31 METER BAND, 25 METER BAND, 19 METER BAND, 16 METER BAND, 13 METER BAND, 11 BANDS IN ALL
HAS A BFO AND MANUAL RF GAIN CONTROL, AND A DIAL AND MAP LIGHT
FOR SALE!
100 SEE LEN

Chicago Marathon '26

CFMC was well represented at the 48th running of the Chicago Marathon. 55,000 runners participated in this year's race, including former Chicago Cub Anthony Rizzo, who stopped by our aid station for a brief second.

The weather was perfect for the volunteers and crowds, but a bit warm for the runners.

The race was a great opportunity for the club members to participate directly demonstrating how Amateur Radio can help support large public events like the Chicago Marathon. Our job was to communicate the needs of the medical professionals operating one of the 20 aid stations along the 26.2-mile course.

Besides the members in the pictures, other club members worked in other capacities at various locations on the race course. Dean KD9REA was at Course Medical Tent 3, Nate W9SDI CMT 9, Julian N5EGG CMT 17, and Jen W9TXJ Triage.

If the club had a volunteer hours program, your yearly quotas would have easily been met.

Bill Deans | *KD9TWA*













News & Announcements

October Meeting

Join us for the October CFMC meeting on Wednesday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the 16th District Police Station, 5151 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago.

This month, Joshua, KD9MXV, will present on Network Security, a timely topic as computers and connected devices play an increasingly important role in our homes and amateur radio stations.

New and Upgraded Hams!

CFMC's VE team celebrated a 100% pass rate at Radio Expo, with all four candidates earning a new license or upgrade! Congratulations to Harlow, KE9GIK, and Mel, KE9GIJ, on earning their Technician licenses; Robert, KI5KLO, visiting from Texas, on upgrading to General; and Ryan, KB9FFR, on upgrading to Amateur Extra.

We also welcome Samuel A. Holloway, KE9GJV, who passed his exam with our team on October 10 and has since received his callsign.

Congratulations to everyone on these milestones, and thank you to our volunteer examiners for helping amateurs get started and advance in the hobby. We look forward to hearing you on the air!

Holiday Meeting Schedule

Please mark your calendars! Our November and December club meetings will take place one week earlier than usual due to the holidays. The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, and the December meeting on Wednesday, December 16. Both meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the 16th District Police Station.

Net Schedule Update!

CFMC has updated its net schedule to make our weekly evening nets easier to remember! The Tuesday Information Net, Wednesday 220 Roundtable Ragchew Net, and Thursday Tech Net will now all begin at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday remain on 146.760 MHz, while Wednesday remains on 224.100 MHz. The Monday "Drive at Five" continues at 5:00 p.m. on 443.750 MHz, and the Night Watch remains unchanged at 10:00 p.m. every night. Join us on the air!

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.

Interested in presenting or have a topic idea? Reach out to Charlie, W9CEF at charlie@askchucky.com or through the club's Discord server.

CFMC on the Web

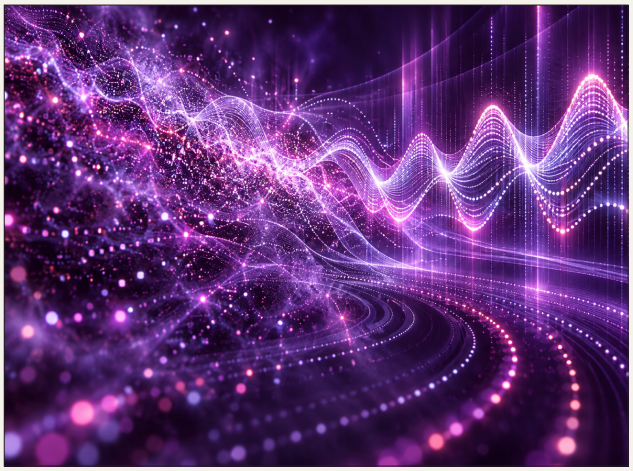
Check out our website
https://www.chicagofmclub.org/

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



Olivia, Fldigi, and Emergency Digital Communications:

Putting written messages on the air when conditions get difficult

A voice signal fades into the noise. A callsign needs to be repeated. A grid square comes through clearly except for one number. Anyone who has spent time on amateur radio knows that making contact and passing information accurately are two different challenges.

Digital communications give operators another way to meet those challenges. By converting information into audio tones that a computer can decode, a station can exchange written messages over the air. Some modes emphasize speed, others weak-signal performance, and others the ability to move organized messages or files.

Olivia and Fldigi provide a useful introduction to this part of amateur radio. Olivia is a digital mode intended to keep text readable under difficult conditions. Fldigi is software that supports Olivia and many other modes. Together, they offer a way to explore keyboard conversations while developing skills relevant to emergency communications.

Their usefulness begins with understanding what each does—and how an ordinary conversation can become practice for passing information when it matters.

Olivia: A Conversation Through the Noise

Olivia is a keyboard-to-keyboard digital mode. An operator types text into a computer, the station transmits it as a sequence of audio tones, and another station decodes those tones into readable words.

Unlike the short, structured exchanges familiar to FT8 operators, an Olivia conversation can develop much like a voice contact. Operators can introduce themselves, describe their equipment, discuss band conditions, or exchange a longer message. The conversation proceeds at typing-and-transmission speed, with each station taking a turn.

Olivia's defining feature is its use of forward error correction. Additional information is included in the transmitted signal so the receiving software can recover text despite some errors introduced along the way. That provides resilience against the noise and fading that can make RF communications frustrating.

There is a tradeoff: resilience takes time. Olivia is not intended to move large amounts of information quickly. Text appears at a deliberate pace, and operators must allow time for the software to decode a transmission. In difficult conditions, however, a slower readable message may be more useful than a faster exchange that requires repeated clarification.

Olivia also comes in several configurations, identified by the number of tones and the signal bandwidth. Olivia 8/500, for example, uses eight tones within a nominal bandwidth of 500 Hz. Other combinations provide different operating characteristics and transmission speeds. Both stations must use matching settings; selecting "Olivia" alone is not enough if the operators choose different configurations.

For someone getting started, that makes advance coordination valuable. Agreeing on a frequency and a particular Olivia configuration removes much of the guesswork. A scheduled contact with another club member provides a chance to learn what the signal looks like, how long decoding takes, and how the exchange feels before trying to find an unfamiliar station.

Olivia also encourages a slightly different operating rhythm. Leave room for the other station to finish, keep messages manageable, and be patient when text takes time to appear. Those habits are useful well beyond a casual digital contact.

Fldigi: The Software Behind the Exchange

It helps to keep the terminology straight: Olivia is a mode, while Fldigi is a program that can transmit and receive it. Fldigi supports numerous digital modes, allowing operators to explore different methods of communication through one software interface.

Fldigi acts as a software modem. On transmit, it converts the operator's text into audio tones. Those tones enter the transceiver's audio path and are transmitted over the air. On receive, the process reverses: audio from the radio reaches the computer, and Fldigi attempts to decode it into text.

The program's waterfall display provides a visual view of signals within the received audio passband. Operators use it to locate activity and position the decoder on a signal. Separate areas display incoming text and hold text prepared for transmission. Fldigi also provides controls for selecting modes and managing an exchange.

A typical station requires a transceiver, computer, antenna, and a way to move audio between the radio and computer. Some transceivers provide audio through a built-in USB connection. Others use an external sound interface connected to the radio's audio or accessory ports. Transmit control must also be configured so the radio keys at the appropriate time.

For operators who already use computer sound-card modes, some of this equipment may already be in place. Nevertheless, a working installation in one program does not automatically mean another program has the correct audio devices or transmit-control settings selected.

The first setup session is best treated as a series of small checks. Confirm that received audio reaches the software. Verify that the intended audio output reaches the radio. Check transmit control, then make a short test with a cooperating station.

Transmit audio deserves particular attention. Excessive drive can distort a digital signal and interfere with nearby activity. Follow the radio and interface documentation, and establish clean operation before increasing power. A stronger signal is useful only if it remains readable.

It is also worth documenting a working configuration. Notes about audio devices, connections, radio settings, and mode selections can save considerable time after a computer restart, a cable change, or a long period away from the software. The easier a station is to restore, the more likely its operator is to use it regularly.

From Conversation to Organized Communications

A casual keyboard conversation and an organized communications net use many of the same technical tools, but they place different demands on the operator. During a ragchew, a missed word may barely matter. When passing a detailed report, a callsign, location, time, or number can be essential to understanding the message.

Voice remains an effective way to exchange information, particularly when a situation requires immediate discussion. Written digital traffic offers another option when information needs to be preserved, reviewed, or relayed accurately. Rather than copying every detail by hand, the receiving operator has text available to check and pass along.

That becomes useful when several stations need the same information. A station status report, assignment list, or set of operating instructions can contain details that are awkward to repeat over voice. Sending the information as text gives receiving operators a common reference and can reduce repeated requests for clarification.

Olivia provides a way to exchange plain-language text under challenging conditions. Its forward error correction helps the receiving software recover information affected by noise and fading. However, Olivia itself does not organize messages into forms or automatically confirm that every intended station received them correctly.

The wider Fldigi software family adds tools for those tasks. Flmsg supports structured message forms, helping operators organize information consistently. Fields identifying the sender, recipient, and message details make traffic easier to follow and handle.

Flamp serves a different purpose: transferring files in blocks. Receiving stations can identify missing blocks and request that those portions be sent again. This allows an incomplete transfer to be repaired without necessarily repeating the entire file.

These tools illustrate an important distinction. Olivia is a transmission mode, Fldigi provides the software modem, and companion applications support particular message-handling tasks. They are related parts of a station, with different roles.

Successful operation also requires coordination. Stations need to know where to meet, which mode and settings to use, and how to acknowledge traffic or request a repeat. Establishing those details beforehand makes an exchange more orderly and reduces time spent troubleshooting on the air.

Putting It Into Practice

Getting started with Olivia and Fldigi can be as simple as a scheduled contact with another ham. Exchange a short practice report, check the received copy for accuracy, and become comfortable with the equipment and software. Regular practice builds skills useful for everyday contacts, public service events, and emergency communications.

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
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