



THE

SPARK

December, 2020

Home of the Cincinnati Repeater System

Cincinnati, Ohio



At the last meeting, held on-the-air, it was decided to not hold our annual Christmas party for the December meeting due the pandemic. It was out of an abundance of caution we made that decision. Instead, we will hold our bi-monthly meeting on-the-air at 7:30, December 2, 2020.

Membership Report

As stated above, our Officers have decided that no holiday gathering will take place this year.

In the past this gathering was the perfect time to renew your membership for the

upcoming year. For 2021 we will need to have a different procedure for collection of dues.

So, for 2021, all current members or amateurs requesting membership will have to mail their dues.

Included in this Spark is the 2021 Membership Renewal/Application form. If just renewing

you do not have to submit this whole form but make sure your name or call is on your

check or money order made out to Cincinnati FM Club. If you are applying as a new

member, please complete the form before submitting.

The mailing address is on the form.

CFMC thanks all members both old, current, and new for their support and hopefully

In person meetings or gatherings will again take place in 2021.

Fred Ruzick K8FR

Cincinnati FM Club

Treasurer's Report November 5, 2020

Beginning Checking Balance	\$10,125.70
Expended Mobilcomm	32.22

Ending Checking	\$10,093.48



Respectfully,

Richard KA8HXR

CFMC Treasurer



Hara Arena, former venue of Dayton Hamvention, is being demolished and will be re-zoned for recreation and light industrial use. The complex suffered extensive damage during the 2019 Memorial Day tornado outbreak

I'm sure we are all members of ARRL and enjoy the magazine *QST*. But, other magazines are available, such as *On the Air* and *QEX*. These are available for viewing on the ARRL website.



Okay, I got my ham license, now what?

This has been an awkward part for new amateurs, and a reason many lose interest after a short time. This has been a well known problem and through the years and much has been written about programs that have tried to help. One effective solution is mentoring, or Elmering in ham speak. Often this is accomplished through amateur radio clubs.

Some of the nearby clubs I have visited have some good ideas, although much has been curtailed recently due to the virus. DARA, one of the larger clubs in Ohio, have a large maker area in their clubhouse used for individual efforts as well as group projects. Milford ARC sometimes have kit building projects, where the members get the components to build them on their own, then finish and test them as a group, where an Elmer helps solve the problems..

One path new amateurs take is remain with just Technician licensing and operate in the 2 meter or 70 centimeter FM bands, as it only requires inexpensive handheld transceivers to participate. The vast repeater system and the digital voice modes expand their operation horizon. But I am looking for more.

I acquired my Technician and General Class licenses at the same time, as my interest was operation in the HF bands. I wanted to communicate directly without relying on infrastructure. It seemed more challenging and requires the development of suitable antennas that are effective, but fit on my property and fit into local zoning rules. It didn't take long to wish "if only I lived out in the country with several acres and no restrictions". Oh, to have room to hang a 75 meter wire dipole and maybe have an 80 ft. tower.

My current solution is a quality 100 watt transceiver and a multiband trap vertical antenna with ground radials. I also admire the radio experimenter aspect of ham radio, although that isn't what it used to be after solid state electronics came along replacing tubes. I still like to design antennas.

ARRL has a new magazine, called *On the Air*, available online in the ARRL website for members. This is targeted to new amateurs. It contains articles useful to those just getting started.

Of course I did get VHF hardware and joined CFMC to have more activity using that.

My winter project is to upgrade to Extra Class. It seems to be a COVID friendly pursuit. Also to work on my Morse Code and strive for the goal of working at 15 wpm. Both will take some work and perseverance. The big advice I got about learning code, is to not start at 5 wpm, or you will forever be cursed from learning faster speeds. Begin with characters sent at a 15 or 20 wpm rate, but word rate at 10 wpm or less and work up to 15. You start at 20 because you shouldn't learn a character as dots and dashes, but by the sound of the character. Otherwise, you will not achieve the higher speeds. You also cannot write them down at these speeds—you need to recognize the words. Using code with different word timing from the character timing in called the Farnsworth method.

Ken W8LTT

Cincinnati FM Club

General Meeting (on the air)

October 7, 2020

Call to order 7:30 PM EDT, by Don W9OBQ, OTA moderator

Check-ins:

KD8JWN – Bob, President

W8SCK – Bob, Trustee

W8TDA – Kitty, Vice-President

K8FR – Fred, Membership Chair

WA8FOZ – Bill, Secretary

W8LTT – Ken, SPARK Editor

KA8HXR – Richard, Treasurer

W3TFI – Bob, Valued Member

Motion to accept August and September minutes by W8SCK / Seconded by W9OBQ, passed.

Motion to accept Treasurer’s report by WA8FOZ / Seconded by W3TFI, passed.

Old Business

Contributions to the SPARK are desired and welcome.

After a long and careful discussion, a motion to forego the annual Holiday Party, was made by KD8JWN, seconded by WA8FOZ. Passed

New business

No further word has been received regarding returning to live meetings at Mobilcom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Klykylo, WA8FOZ

Please submit your dues NOW
For your 2021 CFMC membership renewal!

CINCINNATI FM CLUB

2021 Membership Renewal/Application

Please support the CFMC. Call Fred Ruzick, Membership Chair, with questions. Contact info below

NAME _____ New Member
CALL _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ Membership Renewal
ADDRESS _____ Repeater Code Request
(number and street) (city, state and zip) Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (\$0 if code request)
PHONE NUMBER _____
EMAIL _____

OTHER HAMS IN HOUSEHOLD (at same address)

NAME _____ CALL _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

NAME _____ CALL _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

I will follow the "CFMC Repeater Operation Practices" document dated 3/24/2009. It is available on the internet at http://cfmc.us/CFMC_Operating_Guide.pdf or by mail. By signing this form, I agree to abide by these practices and understand that adherence to these practices is a condition of continued membership in the CFMC and use of its repeaters.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Mail to: **Fred Ruzick, K8FR**
c/o Cincinnati FM Club
3257 Wheatcroft Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45239-6130
(513-741-8873 email k8fr@arrl.net)

**2021 Membership renewals are now
being accepted.**

RENEWALS: \$20 **Memberships lapse after January 1st. SPARK mailings continue through June**

NEW MEMBERS: \$10 Initiation + \$10 Dues = \$20 Total

(Please make check payable to **Cincinnati FM Club**)



The SPARK is the official newsletter of the Cincinnati FM Club and is published bi-monthly in anticipation of the bi-monthly Club Meeting at its normal meeting place: Mobilcomm, 1211 Sharon Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45240-2998. The Editor is Ken Irwin, W8LTT. Articles, suggestions and digital photos may be submitted to Ken via email at W8LTT@arrl.net, or by USPS at 358 Oliver Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45215-2615.

The deadline for the February edition is Sunday, Dec. 20 for material submitted for publication or copied from other sources. Articles may be edited for clarity and length.

Meetings at Mobilcomm are suspended because of COVID-19 pandemic. An on-the-air meeting on 146.28/146.88 Mhz will be held in its place at 7:30 PM, December 2, 2020.

The regular on-the-air meeting on 146.28/146.88 Mhz is at 2100 hours January 6, 2021.

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Go to <http://cfms.us> for the latest news and the most recent edition of SPARK!

The Cincinnati FM Club

Club Station Call: WB8CRS

Monthly Meeting: First Wednesday, Even Months, 7:30 PM

Cincinnati FM Club
1211 Sharon Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45240-2916

CFMC Repeater System

	"88" System				
Location	GREENHILLS	MT. REPOSE	TAYLOR MILL	TAYLOR MILL	GREEN HILLS
Frequency	146.88	146.28	146.28	147.03	443.40
Offset	-0.6	R/O	R/O	+0.6	+5.0
Antenna Height	735 ft.	255 ft.	405 ft.	405 ft.	735 ft.
A.M.S.L.	1541 ft.	1130 ft.	1225 ft.	1225 ft.	1541 ft.
H.A.A.T.	825 ft.	334 ft.	496 ft.	496 ft.	825 ft.
Access Tone	PL 123.0 Hz	PL 123.0 Hz	PL 123.0 Hz	PL 123.0 Hz	DMR Color Code 1
EchoLink Node 809821					



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — CINCINNATI FM CLUB 2019-2020

President:	Bob Shokler	KD8JWN	931-2292	rshokler@cinci.rr.com
Vice-President:	TR Stoner	WR4T	474-5659	wr4t@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Bill Klykylo	WA8FOZ	522-0593	klykylo1@cs.com
Treasurer:	Richard Turner	KA8HXR	221-5707	rt_turner@hotmail.com
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Director: 2019-2022:	Jim Bunning	KD8HXP	769-0140	jabunning@fuse.net
Station Trustee:	Bob Conrad	W8SCK	756-9425	bob@heavenwire.net
Operations:	Jim Benson	W8OUU	825-1254	W8OUU@hotmail.com
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Membership:	Fred Ruzick	K8FR	543-4536	K8FR@arrl.net
Editor SPARK:	Ken Irwin	W8LTT	608-1898	W8LTT@arrl.net



Cincinnati FM Club

On the Air Meeting

November 4, 2020

Call to order 9:00 PM EST, by Don W9OBQ, OTA moderator

Check-ins:

KD8JWN	Bob	W8OUU	Jim
KA8HXR	Richard	KD8MMY	John
K8FR	Fred	W3TFI	Bob
W8LTT	Ken	W9OBQ	Don

Net closed 9:30 PM.

The story behind the story of the "Black Box"

Napfel, Hans F., WB2ZZB (SK)

September 19, 1931 - November 7, 2020

Hans always had a love for technology which began as a young boy when he took apart radios to figure out how they worked. He was born and raised in Germany and turned his passion into his profession by studying Electrical Engineering and getting his first job as an optics specialist at Zeiss. In 1958, Zeiss offered him the opportunity to go to New York to work for a year, and he ended up staying in the United States permanently. His expertise in optics, magnetic film, and motion picture cameras led to a job with Fairchild Industrial Products, where he first worked on endless loop sound projectors. He was then tasked with developing a cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and flight data recorder (FDR), commonly known together as a "Black Box." Information gathered by the Black Box is used today to reconstruct what happens when problems arise during an airline flight. Hans helped investigate many airplane accidents and spent the next 30 years constantly upgrading the Black Box from its initial days as an endless loop recorder to the current solid-state design. His company relocated the flight recorder division (and the Napfel Family) from New York to Sarasota in 1981.

When he retired in 1994, Hans turned his attention to his technology hobbies. He enjoyed being a ham radio operator and was licensed as WB2ZZB. He had many radio friends around the world with whom he had scheduled meet-ups via both voice and CW. Hans became involved in many local clubs and organizations including the Sarasota and Tamiami Amateur Radio Associations, the Sarasota Technology Users Group, the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), and several others. Not only was he a member, but he frequently served as Program Chair, creating and giving presentations on everything from inventions to famous scientists and his own personal travel stories. He enjoyed monthly meetings with 10 different organizations and the friendships he developed with various members throughout his 40 years in Sarasota.

Hans also loved helping people, whether solving computer problems or assisting friends and neighbors with repairs in their homes and gardens. Hans made hundreds of house calls showing people how to set up their computers, use email, and surf the web. He was fortunate to have enjoyed over 25 years of retirement, punctuated with lots of tennis games, ski trips and cruises/trips throughout the world.

Known as "Opa" to his 3 grandchildren and their friends, Hans will be forever remembered for his fun-loving nature and generosity. He leaves behind his loving wife of nearly 59 years, Lisa (Perk) Napfel of Sarasota, daughter Claudia (Napfel) Murray of Scarborough, Maine, grandchildren Trevor Murray, Kristen Murray and Eric Murray, all of Boston, MA, as well as his sister Emmi (Napfel) Asang and her family from Germany. He is predeceased by his sisters Minnie Lumnitzer of Canada and Friedl Wagner of Germany.

Funeral services were at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Sarasota on Friday, November 13. To honor Hans' memory, donations can be made in his honor to the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club, P.O.Box 976, Nokomis, FL 34274.



Submitted by John Maier W8AUV

SpaceX Dragon Capsule Resilience Ferries Four Radio Amateurs to the ISS

11/18/2020 From ARRL website News

SpaceX Dragon capsule *Resilience*, carrying four radio amateurs, autonomously docked on November 17 at 0401 UTC with the International Space Station (ISS). A SpaceX Falcon 9 launcher carrying the precious payload went into space on Sunday, November 15, from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. They comprise the ISS Expedition 64/65 crew.

"Well, the ISS is loaded with hams now," Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) US Delegate for ARRL Rosalie White, K1STO, said on Tuesday. "These four arrived very early this morning Eastern Time: NASA astronauts Victor Glover, KI5BKC; Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, and Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, as well as Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP." This marks Glover's first time in space. The others all are ISS veterans.

Earlier this year, NASA ISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, held amateur radio licensing study sessions for Glover, who passed the Technician exam on August 20.

The four will remain on station until next spring. They joined Expedition 64 Commander Sergey Ryzhikov and Flight Engineer Sergey Kud-Sverchkov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, on the ISS.

White said all but Noguchi likely will take part in ARISS contacts with schools. White said the first school contact is tentatively scheduled for December 4 with Tecumseh High School in Oklahoma, home of the Tecumseh High School Amateur Radio Club, K5THS. She said the students have earned their ham licenses, and the club has built an antenna and is learning about satellites and circuits.

The Sunday launch from Kennedy Space Center marked only the second crewed-flight for the SpaceX Crew Dragon, which became the first commercial vehicle to put humans into orbit when astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken, KE5GGX, launched in May, and NASA gave SpaceX the go for future such launches.

"The return of human spaceflight to the United States with one of the safest, most advanced systems ever built is a turning point for America's future space exploration," SpaceX claimed, "and it lays the groundwork for missions to the moon, Mars, and beyond."

