

# Six Meter Club of Chicago

# HALO

[www.k9ona.com](http://www.k9ona.com)

May 2020

## COMING EVENTS

May 8 Six Meter Club Meeting has  
Been **CANCELLED!**

**NOTE:** Many upcoming HamFests and other public events have been cancelled or rescheduled. At the time of publication of this edition of the *HALO*, the following events had been listed as **CANCELLED**:

May 7-19 Dayton Ohio Hamvention  
23 – Boone IA Hamboree  
June 7 Starved Rock RC Hamfest, Princeton IL  
21 Six Meter Club/ARCI, Wheaton IL  
July 11 South Milwaukee ARC, Oak Creek WI  
24 Central States VHF Society Conference  
La Crosse WI

## SMCC PLANNING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

We have been notified by Saint John's Lutheran Church that since they are effectively closed down, we will not be able to hold in-person meetings until the virus situation has been resolved – which also presently prohibits gatherings of ten or more persons.

Jeff, W9ARG is working with us to experiment with Internet meetings using the ZOOM program, and we expect to test this system in the near future, beginning with a Board meeting of the officers.

Meanwhile, we will hold an on-the-air meeting via our K9ONA repeater system for about half an hour, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, which is our regular meeting date and time. Members who are not able to access the repeater can still participate using the Echo link system. Please forward your suggestions to Jim, WA9FIH at [WA9FIH@aol.com](mailto:WA9FIH@aol.com). Thanks!

## SMCC RECEIVES REQUEST FOR HELP AT CHARITY EVENT

Our Club had received a request again this year for assistance with Hinsdale's *Walk The Walk*, which is sponsored by the Hinsdale Community House. It had been scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 3, but the organizers are presently reviewing options for either holding the event later in the year or possibly cancelling it – as soon as a decision has been made they will notify us and we'll post it here.

## SMCC JUNE 21 HAMFEST CANCELLED, SET FOR 2021

We are sorry to report the cancellation of our annual Hamfest held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, which also features the Antique Radio Club of Illinois' June swap meet as well as the Midwest Classic Radio Net Hamboree.

Fairgrounds management has already reserved May 20, 2021 – Fathers' Day – for our next Hamfest. Anyone who already purchased tickets may return them for a refund or hold onto them for 2021 as they will be honored at that time.

Many other activities at the Fairgrounds, including the popular County Fair held in July, have also been cancelled.

## CENTRAL STATES VHF SOCIETY SPONSORS SPRING SPRINTS

The Central States VHF Society is once again sponsoring a series of short contests – “Sprints” – to encourage VHF/UHF operation, primarily using weak signal modes (SSB, CW, etc.) but contacts may also be made on traditional FM simplex frequencies (no repeaters). The last of this season's Sprints will take place on 50 MHz Saturday May 9 from 2300 UTC until Sunday May 10 0300 UTC (Saturday evening 6 until 10 PM Central Daylight Time).

**SIX METER ROUNDTABLE  
EACH TUESDAY AT 8 P.M.**

Our Six Meter Roundtable Activity Net meets on 50.130 MHz USB Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m., usually for about a half hour. Help keep the band active and join in the rag chew – tell your friends about it too – everyone is welcome!

**DIGITAL SLOW SCAN TV  
NET THURSDAY EVENINGS**

Our Digital Slow Scan TV Net meets every Thursday evening for about an hour, beginning at 7:00 p.m., on our two meter repeater. We use Easy Pal software which can be downloaded free from the Internet. A Tigertronics Signal Link USB or similar interface connects your PC and transceiver.

**CHECK IN WITH THE GRUMPIES  
MORNINGS ON THE SMCC REPEATER**

If you are at home during the morning weekdays, don't forget to check in with the Grumpy Net which meets on our repeater system between 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. It is a good old fashioned rag chew net with some great trivia questions, too! Jim, N9TUQ is the coordinator.

**CLUB LOGO CAPS, PATCHES  
AVAILABLE AT MEETING**

A limited quantity of white baseball-style caps with the Six Meter Club logo patch affixed are available from Jim, WA9FIH for \$6.00 each. The caps, with adjustable headband, are available either in cotton corduroy for cool weather wear, or in the lighter half mesh polyester style. Iron-on embroidered club patches for application to shirts or jackets, 2-3/8" x 3-1/2", are also available from the Club for \$1.75 each. American Flag patches in the same size are available for 75 cents each. See Jim at the next meeting.

**SPAIN GRANTS TEMPORARY  
UNLICENSED HAM OPERATION**

Spain's International Amateur Radio Union member society, URE, has obtained temporary permission from the country's telecommunications regulator for unlicensed people to use amateur radio stations during the coronavirus lockdown.

“The main purpose of the request is to promote amateur radio among school children who must be confined at home,” the announcement from the Ministry of Economic Affairs said. “This activity offers young people the opportunity to gain practical experience in telecommunications technology, promotes education in technological subjects, and is a socially enriching family activity.”

The temporary authorization would be in place while to state of alert and mandatory confinement measures are in effect in Spain. Non-licensed individuals could operate an amateur radio station only under the direct supervision of the licensee, under current amateur radio rules and regulations.

(tnx ARRL)

**ANTIQUÉ RADIO CLUB'S  
APRIL MEET CANCELLED**

We have just received information that the Antique Radio Club of Illinois' Spring Swap Meet, which had been scheduled for Sunday morning, April 26 at the American Legion Hall in Carol Stream, has been cancelled.

Check the ARCI web site, [www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org) for further details.

**H A L O A D S . . .**

**For Sale:**

Heathkit IM-25 VTVM, very good condition, copy of schematic, with probe .....\$40 or best offer

Simpson 303 VTVM w/test leads.....\$75 or best offer

Tektronix Oscilloscope Cart.....Best Offer

Mike Huedepohl, WD9GJK  
3532 Raymond Avenue  
Brookfield IL 60513  
708-485-5481  
[WD9GJK@arrl.net](mailto:WD9GJK@arrl.net)

**For Sale:**

Extech 480400 Phase Sequence Tester .....\$80/Offer

Fluke 33 True RMS Clamp-on Meter.....\$100/Offer

Fluke 13000S Flex 24 AC Current Probe...\$100/Offer

Fluke 87V True RMS Multimeter .....\$225/Offer

Heathkit HO-13 Panadaptor.....\$100

National HRO-60 Receiver, recapped, excellent condition with original manual, matching speaker, nine coil sets for shortwave bands including bandspread on ham bands, cabinet to hold unused coil drawers. Also includes a plug-in SSB product detector from a QST article which fits in space intended for a NBFM adapter (no mods to the radio). ..... \$400

Shure 404B Hand Mic, new in the box.....\$30

Multi MPA-250 Biamp, 250 Watt Public Address Amp in rack cabinet, like new.....\$150

Ron Fitzgerald, K9ZWR  
 5555 South Neva Avenue  
 Chicago IL 60638  
 773-586-3276  
[ronfitz5555@yahoo.com](mailto:ronfitz5555@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:**

ICOM ID-880H Dual Band 2m/440 conventional + Digital transceiver, 50 Watts, D-Star. OPC-478U USB Cable, CD, DC power cable, separation cable, [mobile mounting kit, manual, original box.....\\$400](#)

Complete Kenwood TS-50S portable package in a fitted carrying case, including AT-50 automatic antenna tuner, mic, 110 VAC power supply. Covers 10-160 Meters, 100 W out. Nice and clean, used at our 2018 Field Day for HF SSB.....\$800

Bob Weiss, W9AVB  
 6339 South Kostner Avenue  
 Chicago IL 60629  
 773-571-2213

**For Sale:**

CDE Ham II Rotor & Control Box, refurbished.....\$225

TE Systems 6 Meter 0510G Amplifier, 2-10 W in, 170 Watts out.....\$200

Motorola 2 Meter Amplifier, N1274A, 1-10 W in, 40 Watts out .....\$50

Finco 2 Meter 5 el twist beam A 2+2 H & V new... ..\$50

Finco 6 Meter 3 el Beam A6-3 used.....\$30

Rohn 25G 10' Tower Section, Very Good Cond.....\$60

Ham Radio Callbooks, 1983 & 1993 editions.... \$5 each

Peter WB9W  
 773-425-6155 or  
[WB9W1949@yahoo.com](mailto:WB9W1949@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:**

Hustler 4BTV 10-40 Meter 4 Band Trap Vertical antenna, Brand New! Never in the wind or weather, lists for \$160 plus shipping, asking \$90 or best offer

Tom Kraus, N9HWV  
 847-839-7343

**For Sale:**

Yaesu FT-901DM w/AM filter + desk mic \$500/ofr

Yaesu matching antenna tuner.....\$100 firm

Yaesu FT-767 HF + 6, 2, 432 + hand mic...\$600/ofr

Tom Dombrowski, K9BVQ  
 5426 South 72<sup>nd</sup> Court  
 Summit IL 60501  
 708-496-8982

**For Sale:**

ICOM IC-746 PRO HF/VHF All Mode Transceiver with handheld mic and power supply from W9CEJ's estate.....\$700/Offer

Kate Stair, KB9KDC  
 708-478-7782

## **Wanted:**

“Junker” chassis – blown up mobile solid state amp, just need for the case and heat sink – at least 4 inches wide by 5-6 inches or more long.

Paul Mielnicki, K9LH  
9116 Mobile Avenue  
Oak Lawn IL 60453  
708-870-4887  
pmielnicki@comcast.net

***SOMETHING TO SELL? LIST IT HERE! EMAIL YOUR AD TO [WA9FIH@AOL.COM](mailto:WA9FIH@AOL.COM)***

## **ARRL 2020 FIELD DAY OFFERS NEW GUIDELINES**

Due to the present situation regarding the need for isolation and limiting the size of groups, ARRL has formulated some new alternatives for Field Day operation this year.

Field Day, the weekend of June 27 and 28, is an exercise in emergency preparedness that gives hams a “hands on” experience with operating under conditions requiring the use of emergency power, setting up a station at a temporary location with efficient portable antennas and exchanging test messages. Mobile operation, or home stations using emergency power, are also included in the rules.

Since gathering at usual offsite locations for Field Day will not be possible in many cases this year, ARRL suggests that we all consider operating as Class B, C, D, or E stations using our individual call signs, either base or mobile. Published results will include Club names for all participating stations.

## **NEW RUSSIAN HAM SATELLITE ACTIVE AS LINEAR TRANSPONDER**

ARRL reports that the Russian DOSAAF-85 (RS-44) amateur radio linear transponder has been activated on this small scientific satellite. Transmitter power is 5 Watts – a beacon signal on 435.605 MHz ID's as RS44. The transponder's uplink is centered on 145.965 MHz, +/- 30 kHz, downlink centered at 435.640 MHz also +/- 30 kHz.

## **ILLINOIS ARES MEMBERS WORKING WITH IEMA**

Illinois ARES members are supporting the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's (IEMA) COVID-10 response activities as AuxComm Radio Operator volunteers. Illinois ARES will coordinate the number and location of volunteer amateur communicators with IEMA on an ongoing basis for the foreseeable future.

In a separate activity, the daily ARES Wellness Net has been established to allow Illinois Amateurs to stay connected and comment on their status. The net is informal and uses HF, EchoLink, digital nodes, and linked VHF and UHF nets.

The Wellness Net has seen check-ins from more than 40 Illinois counties. Other local and regional VHF/UHF nets have been activated throughout Illinois as well. The Wellness Net meets daily at Noon Central Time on 3905 kHz, and also uses ECHOLINK conference node WB0VTM-L NODE 824404.

(tnx ARRL)

## **FCC PROVIDES VE TEAMS WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR REMOTE TESTING**

The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote Amateur Radio testing, and no prior approval is required to conduct a remote exam session.

In an April 30 news release, the Commission said that they “provide flexibility to volunteer examiners and coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place”. “We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available testing slots.”

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Soma, AB1FM, said that she is gratified to see that the FCC appreciates the need for remote testing. “Many of our VE Teams have been employing remotely proctored exam sessions with both video and in-person components, following social distancing protocols, where necessary.”

**THE SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO, INC.**

“We desire to promote the Interest of Amateur Radio, foster activity in the HF, VHF, and UHF bands, acquire proficiency in CW operation, provide mutual aid in matters technical. . .”

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| PRESIDENT.....Jim, WA9FIH<br>WD9GJK      | CUSTODIAN OF K9ONA.....Mike,           |
| VICE PRESIDENT.....Joe, KC9TQF<br>WA9FIH | NET MANAGER.....Jim,                   |
| SECRETARY.....Mike, WD9GJK               | HISTORIAN.....                         |
| TREASURER.....Kris, KC9TJL               | ARRL VE TEST CAPTAIN.....Paul, K9LH    |
| SGT-AT-ARMS.....Gary, KC9IDS             | PROGRAM CHAIR.....Joe, KC9TQF          |
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WEBMASTER.....Jim, W9JGH
- .....

The *HALO* is the official publication of the Six Meter Club of Chicago, a not-for-profit ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club incorporated in the State of Illinois and maintained by and for Radio Amateurs.

**MEETINGS:** Held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month (except December) at St. John’s Lutheran Church, southwest corner of 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Brainard Avenue, La Grange IL; enter through south side door adjacent to parking lot.

**NETS:** Six Meter Activity and Ragchew Net, Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. Central Time, 50.130 MHz USB  
Two Meter FM Information Net, Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m. Central time over our K9ONA repeater, 146.37/97  
ARRL Bulletins, Club news, swap shop, other items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.  
Digital SSTV (Slow Scan Amateur TV) Net, Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. on our two meter repeater, using EasyPal software.

**REPEATERS:** The Club operates three open repeaters under the call K9ONA/R. Our Two Meter repeater, located in Hinsdale, uses 146.370 MHz input, 146.970 MHz output, with a three minute timer that must be reset with a short pause after the courtesy tone between transmissions. A 107.2 Hz subaudible (PL) tone is usually required for access. Our 220 repeater, also located in Hinsdale, uses 223.22 MHz in, 224.82 MHz out and requires a CTCSS tone of 110.9 Hz. Our UHF repeater, located in Hinsdale as well, uses 448.300 MHz input, 443.300 MHz output, a four minute timer, and is also “PL” access, requiring a 114.8 Hz tone. The two meter and UHF repeaters also transmit the subaudible CTCSS tone. The repeaters are usually set in cross-link mode.

**AFFILIATIONS:** The Club is a Life Member Club supporting AMSAT, the non-profit Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. We have been named an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club, and belong to the Illinois Repeater Association.

**CERTIFICATES:** Available for working ten Club members (five if applicant is more than 100 miles from Chicago) on either 50, 144, or 222 MHz. Stations worked must be valid Club members at time of your QSO; repeater contacts do not count. Send log data list with time, date, and band/mode to our Secretary. There is no charge for the award.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** The Club has endowed a perpetual scholarship administered by the ARRL Foundation. It is awarded annually subject to specific criteria listed on the ARRL Foundation's web site, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org), or available from the foundation. Applications are due by December 31 of each calendar year.

**FACEBOOK AND YAHOO GROUP:** The Club’s Facebook page is available at: [www.facebook.com/groups/287932964607477/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/287932964607477/).  
The Yahoo Group can be accessed at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/K9ONA>.

**HAMFEST:** Our Six Meter Club of Chicago HAMFEST is held annually on the third Sunday in June (June 20, 2021) at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton , Illinois. *All Club members are expected to work to insure its success.*