THE SPARK

October, 2026 **Home of the Cincinnati Repeater System** **Cincinnati, Ohio**

An ARRL Affiliated Club

The meeting of the Cincinnati FM Club will be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:30 PM at Mobilcomm, at 1211 Sharon Road in Greenhills.

CFMC General Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2026

Call to order 7:30 PM

Attendance:

KD8GHO	Cliffton Powell	KD8GHP	Jeff Powell
W8LTT	Ken Irwin	K8FR	Fred Ruzick
WA8FOZ	Bill Klykyl	N2HTE	Michael Head
W9OBQ	Don Thie	N8HIT	Sean Bentley
KA8LAY	Bill Tittle	WA8VBP	Al Gerth
KD8BNR	Jason Shatto	W8SCK	Bob Conrad
N8PES	Jon Banning	N8DHW	Dave Williams
guest	Jenn Kulak		

Minutes of previous meeting approved HTE Unanimous

Treasurer's report approved: WA8VBP/ N8DHW Unanimous

Membership K8FR: 31 members;

Old Business: 1. New Bao Feng software, discussed by KD8BNR.

2. Operating practices review conducted and presented by KD8BNR; to be examined and discussed at next general meeting.

3. Proposed linkage of our 28/88 repeater to 147.35 in emergencies. SKYWARN approves; GHO will make arrangements for set up. Membership growth.

New Business: NONE, **Vice-presidency remains open.**

Jason KD8BNR presented DISCORD. General discussion of meeting format, club activities,

Motion to adjourn: WA8FOZ/W8SCK. Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Klykylo WA8FOZ, Secretary

CFMC Treasurer's Report

As of September 21, 2026

Balance Per Bank

07/31/2026 $6,376.20

Dues deposit 9/18/2026 40.00

Balance per Bank

9/21/2026 $6,416.20

Michael Head N2HTE

Treasurer

Cincinnati FM Club on the Air Meeting

September 2, 2026

Call to order 2110, Acting NC WA8FOZ

Sign-ins:

KD8GHO, Clifton, President	KD8GHP, Jeff
N2HTE, Mike. Treasurer	K8FR, Fred, Membership Chair
W8LTT, Ken, SPARK editor	KA8LAY, Bill
KL8X, Ryan	N8PES, Jon
W8OUU, Jim	W8KLS, Kyle
WA8VBP, Al, Director	N8HIT, Sean
KE8YWB, Steve	

Announcements: KD8GHO reported that the ARCOM controller and possible upgrades will be discussed at the next general meeting.

Net dismissed 2128.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Klykylo, WA8FOZ, Secretary

Cincinnati FM Club: Helping Invent the Modern Amateur FM Repeater

Today, amateur radio operators can key up a repeater almost anywhere in the country. We program a frequency in seconds, search the internet for technical information, and coordinate projects through email, text messages, and video meetings. Building or maintaining a repeater has never been easier.

But nearly seventy years ago, the Cincinnati FM Club was helping create technology that had never existed before.

Following World War II, amateur radio operators began experimenting with surplus military radio equipment adapted for civilian use. In 1946, operators with the Los Angeles Amateur Radio Club built what is generally recognized as the nation's first experimental amateur repeater on 146.94 MHz. While groundbreaking, repeater operation had not yet been formally recognized by the FCC, and these early systems served primarily as technical experiments.

A decade later, Cincinnati would take repeater technology a giant step forward.

The Cincinnati FM Club was founded in 1955 with a vision of advancing FM operation and developing repeater technology. Club members were convinced that FM represented the future of reliable local communications, but there was no established blueprint to follow. Every aspect of the project required research, experimentation, and collaboration.

The challenges they faced are difficult to imagine today.

There were no computers, no internet, no email, no cell phones, and no online technical forums. Information was exchanged through club meetings, telephone calls, handwritten letters, technical journals, and countless hours spent around workbenches discussing ideas. Components often had to be modified or built from scratch, and every improvement came through careful testing and trial and error.

In 1958, those efforts resulted in W8GUC on 146.88 MHz becoming operational. It is widely recognized as the first coordinated, continuously operating amateur FM repeater in the United States, giving the Cincinnati FM Club a permanent place in amateur radio history.

The success of the Cincinnati repeater quickly attracted attention from clubs across the country. Throughout the 1960s, W8GUC became a model for other repeater systems, demonstrating what dependable FM communications could accomplish. Its influence was so significant that 146.88 MHz became one of the most common repeater output frequencies in many parts of the United States.

By the time the FCC formally established rules governing amateur repeater operation in 1972—including standardized frequency offsets and coordinated repeater practices—the Cincinnati FM Club's repeater had already spent nearly fifteen years proving the concept and demonstrating its value to the amateur radio community.

A Lasting Legacy

The Cincinnati FM Club didn't simply build another repeater—it helped define what a modern amateur FM repeater could be.

Every local conversation, every emergency communication, every public service event, and every new amateur operator who learns the hobby through a local repeater benefits from the pioneering work of clubs like CFMC. The reliable FM repeater network we often take for granted today exists because volunteers decades ago invested thousands of hours experimenting, building, and sharing what they learned.

As we celebrate the history of the Cincinnati FM Club, we honor more than an early piece of equipment. We recognize a group of innovators whose curiosity, technical skill, and determination helped shape amateur radio across the United States.

The next time you key up a repeater, remember that one of the organizations responsible for making that experience possible wasn't located on the West Coast or in Washington—it was right here in Cincinnati.

Jason Shatto

What is Discord?

Discord is a free online communication platform that combines discussion forums, group chat, voice channels, and file sharing into one easy-to-use application. It works on Windows, Mac, Linux, iPhone, Android, or directly through your web browser—making it simple to stay connected wherever you are.

Think of it as a virtual clubhouse that's open 24 hours a day.

Instead of waiting until the next club meeting or weekly net, members can ask questions, share photos, discuss equipment, announce operating activities, coordinate events, and exchange ideas whenever inspiration strikes.

Why We're Using Discord

Our goal is to create a place where conversations continue long after the meeting ends. Discord gives members and the amateur radio community an easy way to:

· Discuss amateur radio topics and operating techniques

· Ask technical questions and receive help from experienced operators

· Share project ideas, station builds, and antenna installations

· Coordinate club events, public service activities, and repeater projects

· Learn from one another and mentor new hams

· Stay informed about upcoming club activities and announcements

As our community grows, additional discussion channels can be added for specialized interests such as HF, VHF/UHF, digital modes, contesting, emergency communications, satellite operations, portable operating, and much more.

Open to the Amateur Radio Community

While the Cincinnati FM Club manages the server, we've intentionally made it welcoming to the broader amateur radio community. Many of the discussion areas are open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio, whether or not they are currently club members.

Club members will also have access to members-only channels for club-specific discussions and internal communications.

Join Today!

Participation is free, and joining only takes a few minutes.

Join the Cincinnati FM Club Discord here:

https://discord.gg/9DUrKzxjn4

If you've never used Discord before, don't worry—it's easy to learn, and members will be happy to help you get started.

We hope you'll join us online, share your knowledge, ask questions, and help make the Cincinnati FM Club Discord another great resource for amateur radio in the Greater Cincinnati area.

73, and we'll see you on Discord!

CFMC MVP25 Node

· **Node:** 311 Greenhills

· **Frequency: 443.8375 MHz (+)**

· **Network Access Code (NAC): 4CE**

· **Primary Talkgroup: 9371**

The CFMC node, along with the entire MVP25 network, is available to **all licensed amateur radio operators** using compatible P25 equipment.

About the MVP25 Network

Unlike many large digital networks that are continuously busy with nationwide or worldwide traffic, MVP25 is designed to support **regional amateur radio communications**. The network connects repeaters throughout Southwest Ohio while preserving local operating and encouraging interaction among nearby amateur radio operators.

Built using commercial-grade public safety infrastructure, MVP25 delivers dependable voice communications with redundant network design and independently operating repeater sites. Each repeater also remains available for local operation when needed.

To maintain reliable regional communications, the MVP25 network is accessed exclusively through RF and is **not connected to public hotspots or worldwide digital reflector networks**.

For operating guidelines, technical information, and a complete list of network sites, visit:

https://www.miamivalleyp25.group

Membership List

N8PES	Jon	Banning
WB8NUT	J. Duffy	Beischel
W8OUU	James	Benson
N8HIT	Sean	Bentley
AD8DM	John	Cadwallader
KN4HCL	Dylan	Chance
W8SCK	Robert C.	Conrad
KE8BHC	Leanne	DeForest
WB9CPU	David	DeForest
N8WYK	Jeffrey	Elam
KF8AWY	Robert	Fletcher
WA8VBP	Allen	Gerth
WD8LKO	Ronald	Grote
N2HTE	Michael	Head
W8LTT	Kenneth J.	Irwin
W8TM	Paul	Kirley
WA8FOZ	William M.	Klykylo MD
W8AUV	John	Maier
NK8I	Tom	Pardi
KD8GHO	Cliffton	Powell
KD8GHP	Jeff	Powell
K8FR	Fred M.	Ruzick
AB8RG	Greg	Santaromita
KD8BNR	Jason	Shatto
K8OP	Hep	Shockley
KD8JWN	Robert L	Shokler
W9OBQ	Donald R	Thie
KA8LAY	William	Tittle
N8DHW	David	Williams
WA8ADH	Robert	Witte
KA8RTG	Richard	Zielasko

The SPARK is the official newsletter of the Cincinnati FM Club and is published bimonthly 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 October edition is Friday, September 20, 2026 for material submitted for publication or copied from other sources. Articles may be edited for clarity and length.

The on-the–air meeting on 146.28/146.88 MHz will be held at 9:00 PM, Wednesday, October 7, 2026.

The regular meeting at Mobilcomm is at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Cincinnati FM Club

Club Repeater Call: WB8CRS

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

The Cincinnati Repeater System

	"88" System All transmitters are simulcast.				
Location	**GREENHILLS**	**MT. REPOSE**	**TAYLOR MILL**	**ELIZABETHTOWN**	**GREEN HILLS**
Frequency	146.88	146.88	146.88	146.88	443.40
Offset	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	+5.0
Antenna Height	735 ft.	370 ft.	405 ft.	250 ft.	735 ft.
A.M.S.L.	1541 ft.	1243 ft.	1225 ft.	1170 ft.	1501 ft.
H.A.A.T.	825 ft.	558 ft.	496 ft.	177 ft.	725 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				

2026 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 PHONE NUMBER _____ Amount Enclosed $ _____

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

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**

Our connection to the DMR bridge was lost and we reconfigured our DMR repeater to the Brandmeister server. Some of the talk groups use different TG numbers, so your code plug needs to be edited to get connectivity. The table below gives you the information needed for the change.

CFMC typical DMR user configuration using Brandmeister server.
BM TG numbers: https://www.pistar.uk/dmr_bm_talkgroups.php

TS	TG	NAME	CALL	COMMENTS
2	2	CIN-DAY	Group	CFMC, Hamilton, Middletown, EdgeCFMC Repeater only Static ID, on all the time
2	9	LOCAL	Group	
2	3139	OHIO	Group	
1	91	World-Wide	Group	
1	93	N America	Group	
1	3169	Mid West	Group	
1	310	TAC-310	Group	Not call channels. Move to here for long conversations
1	311	TAC-311	Group	
1	9990	Parrot	Private	Repeats your voice

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — CINCINNATI FM CLUB 2024-2029

President:	Cliffton Powell	KD8GHO	513-301-5133	Cliffton.powell@gmail.com
Vice President:				
Secretary:	Bill Klykylo	WA8FOZ	513-522-0593	klykylo1@cs.com
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