

The Oscillator

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430
Volume 51 Number 2 March 2005 Club Call W9VT

Upcoming Programs

March 18, 2005	Bill Wilson and NWS, The Great Weather Spotter Show
April 15, 2005	Show and Tell Night
May 20, 2005	Fun time (this is Dayton weekend)
June 17, 2005	Field Day Prep! Time to Get Ready!

From the President's Desk

73's Trish N9WDG

What a great turnout we had at the February meeting. Even though we had some technical difficulties with getting the program started, everything turned out well, and it was a great program. I do apologize for the meeting running late, but a great time was had by all. Most of my notes/input will be in the secretary's notes this time- get-well wishes to Jim, our dedicated secretary, for a speedy recovery. That way I will not be repeating myself. You will also notice in this issue that the treasurer will be doing her own report- one of the changes I want to implement this year. Your officers and board members, along with the various committee chairs, are working hard for you and hopefully you will see the fruition of our labors this year. Hope to see everyone at the March meeting.

Summary of the Feb 2005 Club Meeting

Tri-Town was pleased to have 37 members and guests present along with President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. Secretary had emergency surgery for his appendix and was not present. Treasurer's report posted. Dues are due- those who have not paid will be getting notices. Health and welfare- Mrs. Dosland, wife of one of the founding members, past away. Henry is working on the web site. Skywarn meetings will be the Saturday after the club meeting- see Henry for more details. Calendar of programs is posted on the web site. Nets are AOK. Club station going well- Jerry keeps making great improvements to the antennas. Raffle was won by Bruce GHK- set of wrenches. President went over the various committees- need Program chair and Field Day chair. Henry spoke about the ARRL membership and how the club can make money off of renewals and new. President talked different things- repeater improvements, club activities at the bunker, Henry is formalizing the Skywarn program, and plans for next year's 75 anniversary have to be started, along with updating the club history. Bob from Dyer donated coffee maker for use at club meetings. Program was done by Frank Young.

Notes done by Trish N9WDG and Jerry K9PMV

Need a Badge? Club Clothing? See Sharon, KA9IIT

Easter is Coming, Catch that Rabbit and put an APRS Radio on him!!

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2005:

Trish Jaggard,	N9WDG	President	708.957.1973	rjaggard@netzero.net
Henry Van Bogaert	N9HVB	Vice President	708.687.3946	N9HVB@W9VT.ORG
Jim Everand,	WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	NONE
Sharon Gunderson,	KA9IIT	Treasurer	708.957.7944	sgunderson@gwclow.com
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Brian J. Bedoe,	WD9HSY	Chairman of Board	815.469.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com
		Repeater Trustee, & Oscillator Editor		

Members of the Tri-Town Radio Club Inc. publish the Oscillator 6 times a year. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Officers or members of the Tri-Town RAC, but of the contributors. All articles may be reprinted as long as full credit is given. Other publications are asked to reciprocate their newsletter. Some Articles printed here are from AMSAT, ARRL Letter, TAPR, World Radio, and Other Amateur Radio Publications. Illustrations by **Libby Bedoe, KB9WOV**.

Club Meetings & Nets

Club meetings are the **3rd Friday** of each month at the **Village of Hazel Crest Village Hall**, 170th and Holmes. All are welcome and refreshments will serve. Don't forget to bring a Friend.

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net - Wed, 8:00 PM Local, 146.490.

40 Mtr SSB Net - Saturdays, 8:30 am Local, 7.2625.

10 Mtr SSB Net - Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490.

Cracker Barrel Net - Monday-Friday 3:00 PM Local 146.49

2 Mtr FM Weather Net - Sundays, 8:00 PM local, on **The Club's Repeater** 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL

Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!

Be sure to checkout: **www.w9vt.org**. This is Tri-Town's page and it will lead you to a lot of interesting and useful web sites. There you find information about the Club, Bunker News, Nets and the ability to send E-mail to the Club officers.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>

Trading Post

For Sale: From the shack of Todd, KA9IUC

Hallicrafters SX 101A

Yaesu FT-207R HT.

Allied A-25

Swan 500C

Yaesu FT-101B Transceiver. 160-10M with hand mike and mobile mount. Needs tuning to bring transmit freq. back to receive freq. Can be corrected by use of RIT. \$100.

With m/Speaker. 80-10 M with provision for 2 and 6M converters. \$125.

Hand Mic, base pwr supply/charger & DC supply. No tone board, Battery shot. \$50.

80-10 M plus WWV receiver with matching speaker. \$75.

80-10M transceiver with matching 110V power supply and desk mike. \$150.

Farewell to an Easter Ride Volunteer

By Jerry Dagenais

It is with regret that we report the passing of Mr. Robert Pazanin, age 75 of Hegewisch, IL. Bob was a man who loved his ham radio hobby. With his radio, he was able to talk to fellow hams all over the world. He received many awards for his operating achievements on the air. It was so much a part of his life that he would quite willingly give of his time and radio expertise to others. Noteworthy is his commitment to the FOS Easter ride. He enjoyed his assignment at Goodenow Grove where he would relay the needs of the rest stop to headquarters at Governors State U. He collected Easter ride patches for each year he served and had his sister sew them on his radio club jacket. I was surprised when he told me that he had a continuous collection of them dating back to 1984. His last year served on the Easter ride was 2003, giving him 19 years of participation. Bob was well liked and this was evident, as a large ham radio contingent was present for his memorial service. He will be missed by his friends in the ham radio community and especially the FOS friends he made at the Goodenow rest stop.

Condolences

We are sad to report that Kevin Cleary, son of George Cleary, past away during last week of February. George was an active member of our club. Our condolences to the family.

Skywarn Committee announces 2005 Training Schedule

By Henry, N9HVB, Tri-Town Webmaster

The TTRAC Skywarn Committee will hold their first meeting for 2005 on Saturday February 19th at 0845 at the Club Station.

The meetings will be held each month the morning after the Club meeting, and topics will cover area familiarization, policy and procedure review, tabletop and field exercises, review of past activation's, etc. All amateur radio operators are welcome to participate in the Tri-Town Skywarn program to improve both your communications skills and the quality of service that the Club provides to the National Weather Service and the community. Bring your VHF portable to the meeting. Posted by N9HVB at 0029 on Fri Feb 04 2005

Problems with delivery of ARRL e-mail?

ARRL has been hearing from more and more members who are not receiving The ARRL Letter, W1AW/ARRL bulletins, membership renewal reminders and other automatically delivered e-mail products they've subscribed to. More often than not, the problem is on the recipient's end, not at ARRL's. For example, members with new e-mail addresses must update this information via their Member Data Page <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>> (users must first be logged onto the site). Click on "Modify Membership Data." While on the Member Data Page, make sure you are subscribed to the e-mail products you want and that you have not inadvertently checked the box "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email." ARRL has determined that another culprit is Spam filtering or software employed by the user's Internet Service Providers (ISP) or installed on the user's computer. Some ISPs have been known to block or trap all messages from ARRL as suspected Spam. If you're no longer receiving e-mail products or notices from ARRL that you've signed up for, a call to the ISP's customer service department may reveal that the League's e-mail messages have indeed been delivered to the ISP's mail server but not to the member's mailbox. Request the ISP to permit your account to receive e-mail messages from ARRL. Subscribers to The ARRL Letter should e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>. ARRL if the problem persists. Report other delivery problems to ARRL Headquarters, hq@arrl.org.

Check out the Club Web site: WWW.W9VT.ORG

FCC is looking at Morse Code Again....by Mid-Year

The FCC continues to work toward developing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that will spell out what the Commission has in mind with respect to possible changes in the current Morse code requirement and Amateur Radio licensing.

A total of 18 petitions have been filed, including one from the ARRL, seeking Part 97 rule changes addressing the future of the 5 WPM Morse requirement (Element 1) and revisions to the overall Amateur Radio licensing structure. The FCC is planning to tackle all 18 rulemaking petitions within the framework of a single proceeding.

As far as the code issue is concerned, petitions--and comments in response to them--run the gamut from retaining or even beefing up the Morse requirement to eliminating it altogether. (The ARRL's proposal would retain the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra class applicants only.) The League and others have also put forth proposals for a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

At this point, personnel in the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau are continuing to review the thousands of comments filed on the 18 petitions. While the FCC appears unlikely to release an NPRM any sooner than mid-2005, the issue still may be a major discussion topic during the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22.

ARRL asks the FCC to Void Florida RFI Law

The ARRL has asked the FCC to invalidate a Florida law that prohibits anyone making radio transmissions without a license or Commission "exemption" from interfering with licensed broadcast stations. In a Request for Declaratory Ruling to the Commission February 25, the League maintains that only the FCC has authority to regulate radio stations and RFI. By prohibiting interference to broadcasters, the ARRL contends the Florida law could have the apparently unintended consequence of affecting ham radio licensees as well as operators of certain unlicensed Part 15 devices, such as cordless telephones.

"What is clear is that no radio transmissions, licensed or not, are permitted if they result in interference to public or commercial radio stations licensed by the Commission," the League said. "Thus, it would appear that Commission-licensed Amateur Radio stations in Florida are subject to felony prosecution if their transmissions interfere with interference-susceptible broadcast or other radio receivers used in listening to public or commercial radio stations."

The ARRL says it's not clear that Florida lawmakers intended the law to be as broad in its application as it reads, but that the new law—apparently aimed at unlicensed "pirate" broadcasters—"nonetheless on its face prohibits any person from causing interference" with an FCC-licensed broadcast station.

Although the Communications Act of 1934 does not specifically preempt state regulation of RFI matters, Congress clarified in 1982 that all telecommunications are interstate and subject to exclusive regulation by the FCC, the ARRL pointed out. It cited the Communications Amendments Act of 1982, Public Law 97-259 to support its stance.

Here Come the Hamfests!!

13	Mar 2005	Sterling-Rock Falls ARS	Sterling, IL
16	Apr 2005	North Shore Radio Club	Grayslake, IL
24	Apr 2005	MARK	Arthur, IL
20-22	May 2005	Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, Ohio
4-5	Jun 2005	Princeton Hamfest	Princeton, IL
4	Jun 2005	SVRC Hamfest	Springfield, IL
12	Jun 2005	Six Meter Club	Wheaton, IL

Russian Soyuz, a smoother ride than Space Shuttle

Youngsters attending St John's School in Houston, Texas, used ham radio to pose 15 questions about life in space to International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW. For Chiao, the contact February 23 between NA1SS and W5RRR--the club station at the Johnson Space Center (JSC)--was a way to "phone home," in a manner of speaking. The QSO was arranged through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. One student was curious about the differences between traveling into space aboard the Russian Soyuz vehicle and the US space shuttle.

"The Russian rocket, because it doesn't use solid-rocket boosters, is actually much smoother. It's liquid engines the whole time and just feels a little bit different," Chiao explained. "Also, because it's a missile--not a winged vehicle like the shuttle--the actual trajectory is a little bit different than that of the shuttle, so we actually pull a few more Gs. We get up to about four and a half Gs as opposed to three Gs on the American space shuttle." So-called "G" forces refer to the force of gravity during acceleration.

Both spacecraft convey crews into space--the Soyuz can hold three passengers, while the shuttle can accommodate a crew more than twice that size, and both take the same amount of time to get into space--about eight and a half minutes, Chiao pointed out. The Soyuz vehicles have been the sole means of transporting crews to and from the ISS since NASA grounded its shuttle fleet following the 2003 shuttle Columbia tragedy. As a result, ISS crew complements dropped from three to two members. NASA hopes to return the shuttle to flight this summer.

St John's teacher Rene Wright thanked Chiao for selecting the school for an ARISS school group contact. "For us it has been the experience of a lifetime," she said. Chiao allowed that the contact was a real pleasure for him and that it was "great to be talking to home again." ARISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>> is an educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Utility informs Ham Radio Club of BPL Plans

Staff members of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) in California announced during a February 23 presentation to the San Diego DX Club that the utility plans to deploy multiple broadband over power line (BPL) test sites in San Diego County. Locations for the BPL pilot projects have not yet been specified. Several BPL equipment vendors are expected to be involved in the trials, each with its own test area and frequency plan, and the first system could be in place as early as this June, with others following soon after.

The SDG&E staffers said they were unimpressed by early BPL equipment, but were encouraged by a December visit to the Cinergy BPL system in Cincinnati--said to pass some 50,000 homes reportedly without generating any interference complaints so far. Cinergy has partnered with Current Technologies in its BPL venture.

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, says that while Current Technologies' BPL equipment does reduce emissions in most spectrum used by Amateur Radio, it operates at full strength on other HF spectrum--such as the international short-wave broadcast bands--and it uses low-VHF on medium voltage lines.

"The Current Technologies' BPL HF emissions are from the 120/240 V wiring only, so it is not likely that the signals will propagate along a line as well as systems that put HF signals directly onto overhead medium-voltage distribution lines," Hare said. But he added that even with the best "notching" techniques, interference is still possible from a nearby BPL system.

"ARRL's concern is that if the degree of protection this BPL equipment provides proves inadequate for such circumstances and interference occurs, there are no additional solutions to apply," Hare said.

ARRL promotes Amateur Radio at NEMA

The ARRL promoted Amateur Radio at the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Mid-Year Conference February 12-15 in Washington, DC. With help from Maryland-District of Columbia Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Carr, WA1QAA, and Assistant Section Manager and Emergency Coordinator Jim Cross, WI3N, ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, staffed an Amateur Radio exhibit booth at the gathering.

"This event provided excellent exposure for Amateur Radio to the larger emergency management community," Miller said. "Interaction with those representing many diverse levels of emergency management is a win-win proposition." At the same time, he said, it gave League representatives a chance to hear the concerns of emergency managers for follow up with local ARES teams. Miller said many of the nearly 350 attendees representing federal and state emergency management and other agencies around the US stopped by the ARRL booth to complete a short questionnaire and to discuss Amateur Radio--with a focus on emergency communications.

ARRL offering Schools a Basic Electronics Course

The ARRL Education and Technology Program is offering schools and clubs a CD-ROM presentation on basic electronics. The instructional presentation is available free of charge upon request.

"The Basic Electronics Course is intended for teachers and instructors who want a ready resource they can adapt to their instruction of electronics fundamentals," says ARRL Education and Technology Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME. "The materials include a PowerPoint presentation and instructor's script."

Spencer says the course is designed around affordable components, a prototyping board and a volt-ohmmeter (VOM). The is Understanding Basic Electronics <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=3983>.

"The course covers the very basics up to Ohm's Law and then touches on other components like capacitors, coils, diodes and transistors--components common to virtually all electronic circuits," Spencer explains. He says teachers or instructors can use the presentation "as is" with the script or "cut and paste and roll their own" course. "The course should take on the order of 10 hours to present," he notes. The PowerPoint presentation is on the order of 19 MB, so it is being made available on CD-ROM by request. Spencer has included a parts list and source. Those with high-speed Internet connections may wish to download the PowerPoint presentation <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/Basic-Electronics-for-the-New-Ham.ppt>> and the Instructor's Script MS-Word document <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/Basic-Electronics-Script.doc>>. For more information or to request a copy of the presentation, contact Mark Spencer, WA8SME, m Spencer@arrl.org; 860-594-0396.

SOLAR UPDATE

Solar sage Tad "Sunny" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: This week saw a quiet sun, which will be a frequent observation over the next few years. The average daily sunspot number was down nearly 31 points to 14.9, and average daily solar flux was off 21 points to 76.3. Planetary geomagnetic activity was down just slightly, and mid-latitude activity was just about the same as the previous reporting week.

Over the next week expect a rising sunspot count and solar flux, with flux values peaking above 100 around March 11-14. March 6-9 could see some unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions based on activity during the previous solar rotation. Sunspot numbers for February 24 through March 2 a mean of 14.9. The 10.7 cm flux was a mean of 76.3. Estimated planetary A indices were a mean of 9.4. Estimated mid-latitude A a mean of 6.6.

Editors Note: For Current Sunspot info Check out the Club Web site: WWW.W9VT.ORG

N1II IS 2004 BILL ORR TECHNICAL WRITING AWARD WINNER

The ARRL Foundation Board of Directors has selected Paul Danzer, N1II, as the 2004 recipient of the Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award. Acting upon a recommendation from the QST editorial staff, the Foundation Board recognized Danzer for his article "Open Wire Feed Line--A Second Look," which appeared in the April 2004 edition of QST (p 34).

A resident of Norwalk, Connecticut, Danzer is a former ARRL Headquarters staff member and served as a book editor for several years, during which he wrote the ARRL books *Your Ham Antenna Companion* and co-authored *PCs in the Ham Shack*. First licensed in 1953, Danzer says Amateur radio played a large part in his 30-plus year career as an engineer. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering and is a Life Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

The award's namesake, Bill Orr, was best known for his voluminous publications for radio amateurs, including such reference gems as *The Radio Handbook*, *The Beam Antenna Handbook*, *The Quad Antenna Handbook*, *The VHF-UHF Manual* and *The W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook*, some written in collaboration with Stu Cowan, W2LX. From the 1940s through the 1980s, Orr was a frequent contributor to QST, for which he authored dozens of articles, tips and pieces of correspondence. Additionally, Orr constructed some of the amplifiers once used at ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW. He died in 2001.

Ham Radio workshop set for National Hurricane Conference

The 27th annual National Hurricane Conference March 21-25 will include an Amateur Radio workshop, "Preparing for a Communications Blackout." The ham radio session will take place Tuesday, March 22, 1:30 until 5 PM. The 2005 National Hurricane Conference--the national forum for education and professional training in hurricane preparedness--will be held at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. Workshop speakers will include Florida EMS Communications Engineer Randy Pierce, AG4UU; the Florida Emergency Communications Center's John Fleming, WD4FFX; Hurricane Watch Net Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP; Dan Sullivan, KO1D, of the WMD Exercise Support Team for Community Research Action, Alexandria, Virginia, and ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG. Jerry Herman, N3BDW, will serve as moderator. Amateur Radio operators are welcome to attend this workshop at no charge; conference registration is not required. ARRL's presence at the National Hurricane Conference is made possible through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The ARRL's Amateur Radio booth will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the conference, and radio amateurs will be on hand to discuss Amateur Radio emergency communication and answer questions. Conference details and directions are found on the conference Web site <<http://www.HurricaneMeeting.com>>.

DXCC Desk approves operation for DXCC credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the VU4RBI and VU4NRO Andaman and Nicobar Islands operation from November 30 through December 31, 2004, for DXCC credit. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/>> can answer most questions about the DXCC program. Current ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins for 2004 page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>>.

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

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____ Regular Membership \$ 20.00
____ SWL Membership \$ 20.00
____ Extra Family Membership \$ 6.00
____ Bunker Buddie \$ 5.00

____ Auto Patch w/1 Speed Slot \$ 25.00
____ Extra Speed Slots \$ 5.00

\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

For Example: Regular Member, with A/P and Bunker Buddy (20+25+5) = \$ 50.00

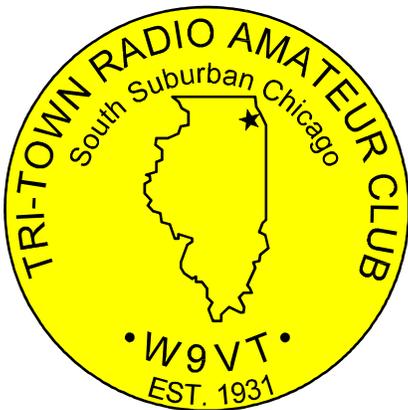
Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Inc.

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March 2005

First Class Mail



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