

The Oscillator

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Up Coming Programs

July Meeting: There is no Meeting on the July 18th. The Club picnic at Tom W9SRV's farm in Grant Park is Saturday July 26 from 5 PM. Details to be finalized and emailed and posted on the website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

August Meeting: This is our Summer Break, No Meeting!

From the President's Shack

Jim, NV9X

Hello everyone. Well, we are now deeply entrenched in summer. Tri-Towners have been busy. I understand the May meeting and program was great. Many thanks to Tom (AB9LA) for completely handling the May meeting. Also thanks to N9JWO (Bill) and N9XGC (Bruce) for helping out with program. There was a respectable number of Tri-Towners attending the Dayton Hamvention. K9PMV (Jerry), K9OWQ (Pete), AB9MZ (Greg) and myself attended a day long of classes, on Thursday, called Contest University. Classes on contesting and dxing from the pros. The Thursday dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse was well attended. The Hamvention itself was excellent as always.

In early June Livingston, will and small portion of Cook counties had tornadoes. Our friends on The Waldofar Skywarn group did a very professional job on being the first eyes on the tornadoes. The south suburban area owes them many thanks. Great job guys. At our June meeting Mr. Bill Wilson from the National Weather service gave a great (as always) presentation on severe weather spotting. It was great having KB9SUY, KB9WZV and W9SRV from The Waldofar Skywarn Group there.

The very next day Drivin' the Dixie was held. A lot of Tri-Towners participated. It was a lot of fun. Glad to see big club showing. WD9JGG (Martin) was a very busy man that day. And Field Day was last weekend. Lots of contacts, food (thanks to N9OTL, W9MAQ and KA9IUC) and lots of fun. While we have fun let us keep the families of KB9OGO, KB9HTV and KA9PMZ in our thoughts and prayers.

We are in the process of planning the club picnic at W9SRV's farm. Date is Saturday July 26 from 5 P.M. and beyond. Hopefully we will have it all planned by board meeting. You will be notified by e-mails and posted on the website. There will not be a July general meeting. There will not be an August general meeting. There will still be board meetings. Back to normal (whatever that is) in September. We have been busy. Now it is time to spend time with families. I would like to announce three new members: W9GUN (Gary) from Grant Park, AB9MZ (Greg) and his son KC9KRS (Scott). Greg brings with him a long list of accomplishments. We welcome them and will let them in on the secret handshake.

There is a nice contest this weekend (Saturday), The IARU Championship. Not a Bunker event. Hope everybody enjoys summer and takes some time with their families. 73, Jim.NV9X

Its Summer Time! Summer Time! Sum, Sum, Summer Time!

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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.

Official Club 2 Mtr hangouts: 146.49 Simplex, & The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
Unofficial Club Hang Outs 442.375 WA9WLN/R, & 443.325 WD9HSY/R both using 114.8 PL +5mhz

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

Upcoming Hamfests

20 Jul 2008 + KARSFEST Kankakee Area Radio Society <http://www.w9az.com> Peotone, IL
Talk-In: 146.94 (PL 107.2) Contact: Carl Schroeder, K9CS Phone: 815-473-4263

3 Aug 2008 * Illinois State Convention BARS Hamfest <http://www.k9bar.org> Bolingbrook, IL
Talk-In: 147.330 +600 (PL 107.2) Contact: Tom Ballard, N9LJY Phone: 630-739-3740

10 Aug 2008 + Hamfesters Amateur Radio Club Will County Fairgrounds

13-14 Sept 2008 + Radio Expo 2008 Chicago FM Club Belvidere, IL Boone County Fairgrounds
<http://www.chicagofmclub.org> Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 107.2);

Field Day 2008: Get Ready - Get Set - We Went!!

Dave N9LGP, Field Day Chairman

Field Day 2008 is now a memory. But what a memory!

We ended up with a score of 4028. This is the result of 1037 contacts, which breaks down as follows: 447 CW, 60 Digital, and 530 Phone. Our score included 940 Bonus Points.

Included in the phone contacts are a handful of satellite contacts and a handful of hand-crank generator contacts, thanks to Bill N9JWO, Tom AB9LA, and Bruce WD9GHK, respectively. The digital contacts were made at the PSK Station. Many times I looked over my shoulder (from my corner CW station) to see 2 or 3 operators zoned in on the computer screen. Dave W9HW and Renee K9DO set up their operation again in the front room and put forth a great effort on SSB. Jim WD9GXU brought in his Kenwood TS-450S and made some contacts, and Todd KA9IUC manned the GOTA station. Dave N9LGP and Jerry K9PMV provided the CW contacts. Also, Jim KB9VR provided a very interesting and informative Educational presentation, demonstrating proper coax connector soldering and restoration techniques.

Much preparation went into this year's event. Thanks to Jim NV9X for preparing the computers and the network. Jim put in a few sometimes frustrating hours all week prior to FD. But, on Saturday everything was ready to go, with some last minute assistance from Rich KB9IPS. There was also some antenna farm maintenance in the days leading up to the event. We erected a 40 meter dipole, repaired the Butternut verticals, and took down the G5RV.

"Murphy" made a couple of appearances this year. On Saturday, after making 6 contacts, Dave N9LGP's memory keyer stopped working with the TS-850. After much troubleshooting, with the help of Jerry K9PMV and Rick W9RJC, Dave decided to take the keyer home to see if it would work with his rig. It did, so he brought the keyer and the rig back, decided to try the keyer one more time with the TS-850, and it worked! So, at 6pm, after enjoying a couple of hot dogs, provided and prepared by Todd KA9IUC and Matt N9OTL for the group, he was able to go to work on CW.

Dave and Renee, W9HW and K9DO, had a visit from "Murphy" as well. The beam antenna got stuck pointing south, right in the middle of a great run. Again, much troubleshooting by W9HW and W9RJC, they could not resolve the problem. Dave and Renee regrouped, and continued on into Saturday night and again Sunday morning to put in a fine effort.

We were visited by 4 Hazel Crest Police Officers on Saturday afternoon. They stated that they were curious about what was going on, and one of them said he'd never been inside the Bunker in his 10+ years on the Force! Police Chief Tom Folliard also paid us a visit on Saturday afternoon, engaging few of us in interesting conversation.

Although turnout was light compared to previous years, we had other visitors, including 3 hams who visited Jim WD9GXU in the very early hours of Sunday morning. And by the way, thank you Jim for keeping the Bunker available all night long! Jim was rewarded Sunday morning by a surprise visit from Pete KE9YX, who provided a Denver Omelet freshly cooked on the stove!

So that's about it. We had great time this year as everyone who participated had fun and enjoyed the experience. Look for some pictures on the website soon, as Jim W9MAQ and others were operating cameras throughout the weekend. Consider coming out for next year's event. Who knows what kind of new antenna's, equipment, band conditions, and visitors we might have! See you at Field Day 2009!

Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!

WWW.W9VT.ORG

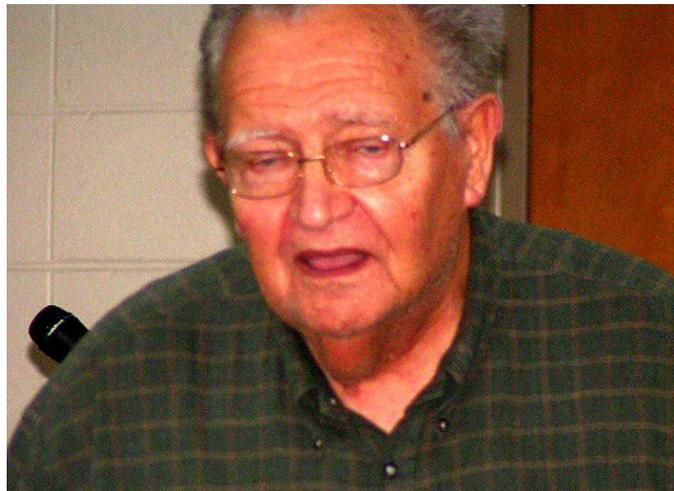
June 8, 2008 Tornado's visit the South Suburbs!

The storms ripped through the Southland. Power outages knock out the 2 Mt and the Brian's 443.325 Repeaters. The weather did damage out at Dan and Sharon's Hideaway in Wilmington. The weather also struck within a block of The old QTH's of Brian & Betsy's WD9HSY (N9FUW), Howard W9NHM, Kirby WS9D and Hank's WB9VUD in Park Forest.



Sam Radford, KB9HTV, SK

Sam became a silent key May 5, 2008. He was an active member of the club attending meetings and participating in Field Day. The club became aware of his passing after services were held. Sam had been active in Public Service in the Western Suburbs and settled down in Chicago Hts and University Park after retiring. Sam was very active on the Club Repeater, always a welcome voice on the system.



Bob Nelson, KA9PMZ, SK

Bob became a silent key at home June 20, 2008, following illness and hospitalization. He was an active club member. He attended meetings and was Net Control for the daily Cracker Barrel Net. He is survived by his wife of 62 years Noreen, daughter Christine, son Richard and many grand and great grand children. Bob served in the Coast Guard during WWII. A memorial service was held on June 27, 2008. Many club members attended.

Drivin' the Dixie 2008

By Jerry K9PMV

Tri-Town does it again! For the third consecutive year, TTRAC provides communications assistance to the annual Drivin' the Dixie event. In case you don't know, Drivin' the Dixie is a celebration of the historical Dixie Highway route. When the highway was first constructed, it ran from the Chicago area all the way to Florida and was created to promote travel by automobile. The Homewood historical society, in co-operation with all the towns between Blue Island and Momence, sponsors an antique car rally between these two towns every June. It is quite a spectacle as about 150 vintage vehicles parade south from Blue Island on ole' Dixie Highway. Each year, this event gets better and this year was no exception.

The day before the event, TTRAC repeater gurus **Tom W9SRV**, **Brian WD9HSY**, **Lee KB9SUY** and **Dale KB9RRE**, engineered and installed a link between **WALDOFAR** UHF and the Club 146.805 Mhz VHF machine. This provided total handie talkie coverage regardless where you were and what system you were using. The results were astonishingly good; hardly a missed call due to poor coverage.

As in previous years, **Tom W9SRV** and 2 of his junior ops shouldered the NCS duties as the **W9VT** "embedded mobile". Tom was the 5th or 6th car from the head end of the procession and advised all concerned as to logistical needs. Tom also kept in touch with the "A's R Us" club cars in the group via FRS radio. Critical traffic was passed regarding parking arrangements, time schedule, and traffic control to TTRAC members stationed in each of the town checkpoints along the way. Also participating in the motorcade were **Paul KB9PZC** and his sidekick **Bruce WD9GHK** in Paul's new looking U.S.Army Jeep and trailer. These guys were all dressed up in Army fatigue uniforms and the Jeep was equipped with military radios ... quite an attention grabber.

The parade left Blue Island at about 8:30 AM, Saturday June 21st and arrived at Island Park in Momence at about 4 PM. The weather was mostly fair but there were isolated T storms midday. **Lee KB9SUY** and **Brian WD9HSY/m** gave Internet based weather and radar updates as the caravan progressed along. Fortunately, the storms skipped around the event.

This event has generated much interest, technical improvements and participation for Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club. Indeed, the operator turn out seems to exceed that for Field Day. And, hopefully, we have provided a valuable service to the community while having fun at the same time. This year's participants were:

Martin WD9JGG/m co-coordinator at large,
Jim NV9X, Blue Island and Steger
Tony W9VN, Chicago Heights
Pete K9OWQ, Flossmoor
Richard KB9IPS, Homewood
Todd KA9IUC, Homewood
Sharon KA9IIT/m, Homewood route scout.
Bruce WD9GHK, Military vehicle participant.
Mark KA9MDJ, Beecher
Brian WD9HSY/m, repeater engineering and mobile at large.
Lee KB9SUY, repeater engineering and WX reporter..

Tom W9SRV/m , NCS and repeater engineering.
Jerry K9PMV, Blue Island, Posen and Bunker
Doug WA9YSW, Chicago Heights
Gard K9GBT, Flossmoor
Matt N9OTL, Homewood
Dan WB9ACN/m Homewood route scout.
Paul KB9PZC, Military vehicle operator
Dale KB9RRE, repeater engineering.
Tom AB9LA, Crete

Apologies to anyone who participated and is not listed. This event continues to be a lot of fun and we look forward to participating again next year.

Do we have an active club? You bet!

Todd KA9IUC

The latest frenzy of activity started with the May meeting. While many were away at the Dayton Hamvention, we had a great meeting at the Bunker. The business meeting was lively and the program was on two subjects, satellite communication and PSK 31. The evening included demonstrations of both means of talking with fellow hams. Bill Wilson, of the National Weather Service, presented a program on weather spotting at the June meeting. This is an annual program but you learn something new each time. All this knowledge came in to use recently when tornadoes hit the Southland area. Driving to Dixie was on Saturday, June 21st and the club was involved providing communications for the event. The latest club event was Field Day. Lots of planning and lots of prep work but it does pay off.

I just want to say thanks to all the members who were active in these activities. I especially want to thank those individuals who chaired each of the activities and those who helped carry out our objectives. This is what makes us a CLUB.

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Retires

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH -- the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement -- said goodbye to the FCC as he retired and began his life as a private citizen. In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited "several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community." While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said that he has "loved" working for the FCC and has "always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work. The Amateur Radio Enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

Saying it has been a "privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators," Hollingsworth said that he is "extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators."

Before joining the FCC, Hollingsworth, a South Carolina native, graduated from the University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University School of Law. While in high school, he worked as a disc jockey for WRHI, an AM station in Rock Hill, South Carolina. "It's a funny thing," Hollingsworth said. "They once held a beauty pageant in Rock Hill and nobody won!" In the mid-1970s, he was a "Nader's Raider" and worked on brown lung disease in the North and South Carolina textile mills.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio. "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I have met who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you. I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed."

Calling the Amateur Radio Service a part of the American heritage, Hollingsworth explained that he is "going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can. Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio! Every gift of lasting value comes with responsibility. We must never forget what we owe for our spectrum privileges. I will continue working with you in every way I can to ensure that Amateur Radio lasts a thousand years.

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

____ 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

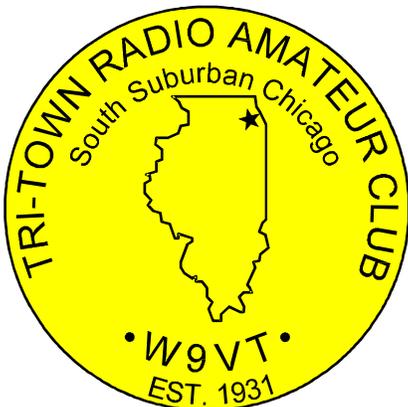
\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

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

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Inc.
PO Box 1296
Homewood, IL 60430-0296

July 2008

First Class Mail



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